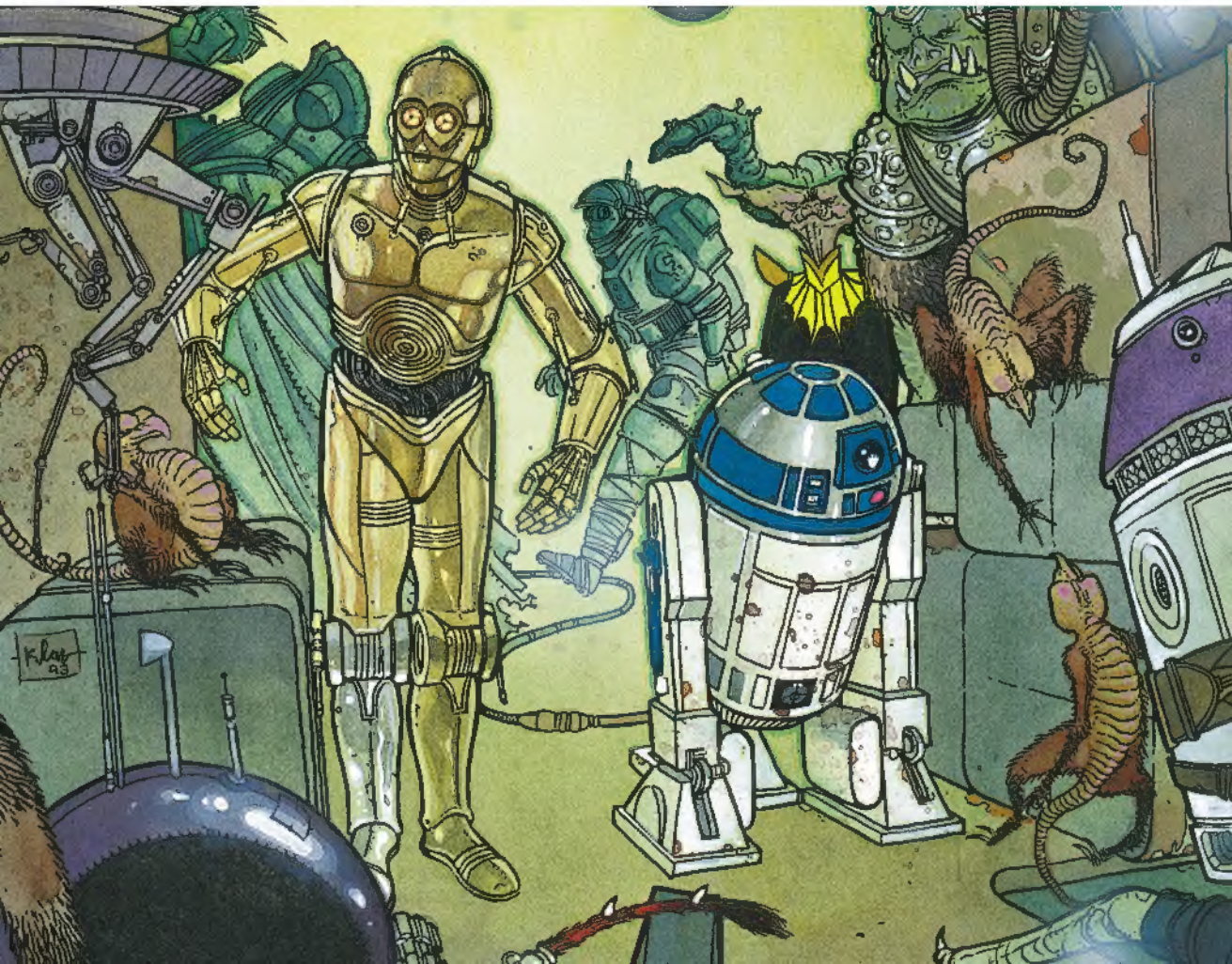
STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

DROIDS



STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

DROIDS

DARK HORSE BOOKS®

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Star Wars® Omnibus: Droids
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This volume collects *Star Wars: Droids Special*, *Star Wars: Droids* #1–6, *Star Wars: Droids* volume two #1–8, and *Star Wars: The Protocol Offensive* comic books originally published by Dark Horse Comics, as well as "*Artoo's Day Out*," a comic story originally published by Topps in *Star Wars Galaxy Magazine* #1.

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MAKING DROIDS

BY RYDER WINDHAM

Nowadays, if you're asked to write a *Star Wars* story (really, these things can happen), you'll likely wind up consulting more *Star Wars* comics, novels, and reference books than you can lift, all in an effort to maintain continuity and produce an excellent product. The continuity was simpler in early 1993, when Dan Thorsland and I were editors at Dark Horse Comics. Dark Horse had only recently published its first groundbreaking *Star Wars* series, *Dark Empire*, and the novels *Heir to the Empire* and *Dark Force Rising* were still on the bestseller lists. Other than those titles, the bulk of *Star Wars* publishing consisted of a relatively modest number of books and a run of Marvel Comics, most of which were—like the movie trilogy that spawned them—over a decade old.

Dan was an editor on *Dark Empire II*, and I had edited comic adaptations of *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, so we both had some experience working on Lucasfilm properties. Lucasfilm's Lucy Autrey Wilson wanted to see C-3PO and R2-D2 in humorous adventure stories, suitable for all ages, and cited Carl Barks' *Donald Duck* comics as a role model. She said we didn't even have to tie in with the *Droids* animated cartoon series or any previously published novels or comics. All we had to do was to assemble a creative team to come up with something new and fun. Sounds like a breeze, right?

Ha!

Dan and I approached a number of freelance writers, but we repeatedly struck out. Some writers were too busy, others disinterested, and the rest—despite our efforts to convey Lucasfilm's directives—were determined to take C-3PO and R2-D2 in either sinister or outright ludicrous directions. This discouraging process went on for about five months.

At some point, I realized that Dan was more thoughtful about the material than any of the writers I'd been talking with. It wasn't just that he was a *Star Wars* fan (although that certainly helped), but that he was weirdly sympathetic to the droids. While others regarded the droids as little more than comic relief, Dan spoke of their "unfortunate plight as intelligent machines" who were "treated worse than slaves." Furthermore, Dan had somehow gotten his mitts on a copy of actor Anthony Daniels' own script for the *Star Wars Radio Drama*, in which Daniels himself had made notations of revised dialogue for C-3PO. Dan knew how C-3PO talked, but Daniels' script had taught Dan how C-3PO *didn't* talk, which was more than other writers had considered.

More desperate than ambitious, Dan and I got permission to work up a proposal on our own. Following the example of the Han Solo novels by Brian Daley, we created a scenario for adventures set in an ambiguous period before *Star Wars*: Episode IV *A New Hope*, and attempted to avoid potential continuity problems by avoiding references to the Empire and Rebel Alliance. Although a "prequel" trilogy was still just a rumor in 1993, we were aware that George Lucas had once told interviewers that C-3PO and R2-D2 might appear in the prequels, so we allowed the possibility that both droids may have had "memory wipes" to erase their knowledge of prior events. Our proposal included outlines for a three-chapter serial

launch (it would appear in the anthology *Dark Horse Comics*), six relatively self-contained stories, and a few art samples by Bill Hughes. The plan was that Dan would write the scripts and I would edit, except for a tradeoff with *Droids* #5 because he insisted that I write the "babysitter droids" story.

Droids officially debuted in *Dark Horse Comics* #17 (January 1994), which utilized one of Bill Hughes' art samples for the cover. Bill was an easy choice for penciling *Droids*. I'd edited his creator-owned series *She Buccaneer* for Monster Comics, and loved the way he drew cartoonish machinery. I was also eager to work again with inker Andy Mushynsky, who had done great work on *Indiana Jones* comics. Dan and I both admired Ian Gibson's art for *Halo Jones* and various *2000 A.D.* titles, and considered ourselves lucky to sign him on too.

I hired *Dark Empire* artist Cam Kennedy to draw the cover for *Droids* #1, and Kilian Plunkett for the remaining issues. Some stories almost entirely evolved from ideas for cover art. For example, I figured a cover of a protocol droid holding a ridiculously large blaster would be a good eye-catcher, so I invented the C-3PX. Dan conceived the rock monsters and the ambulatory wrecking droid for similar reasons. As for the babysitting droids, who might slightly resemble robotic versions of Donald Duck's nephews, I confess that I was desperately hoping to please Lucy Wilson at Lucasfilm.

If the mail we received was any indication, the biggest fans of *Droids* were young children and their parents. When Dark Horse was assembling the collected edition of *Droids: The Kalarba Adventures*, I sent copies of the comics to Anthony Daniels and asked if he would write an introduction. A few weeks later, I phoned him to ask if he'd had the chance to read the comics, and he said, "Check your fax machine." I did, and found he had already sent the introduction, which read in part: "Some of the pages are as convincing in character to me, as though I were actually there, playing the part. When a character you have created and loved has been reproduced commercially in every way from bubble bath to bubble gum, you can get a little protective. But with these stories, I know Threepio is safe."

A few random notes...

Rebellion. The vacuum cleaner-wielding droid on Nar Shaddaa is Zee Zee, who was introduced as Han Solo's droid in *Dark Empire*.

Season of Revolt. I had nothing to do with this story, but I sure enjoyed reading it.

The Protocol Offensive. The story was based on a short outline written by Brian Daley in 1995. After Brian's untimely death the following year, Anthony Daniels and I were enlisted to transform the outline into a full script. My dear friend Mr. Daniels not only contributed greatly to the story but wrote every line of C-3PO's dialog.

So how does *Droids* hold up with continuity since the release of the prequels? Well, obviously, C-3PO and R2-D2 must have strayed from the *Tantive IV* for a spell. And just how did that happen?

That, as they say, is another story.

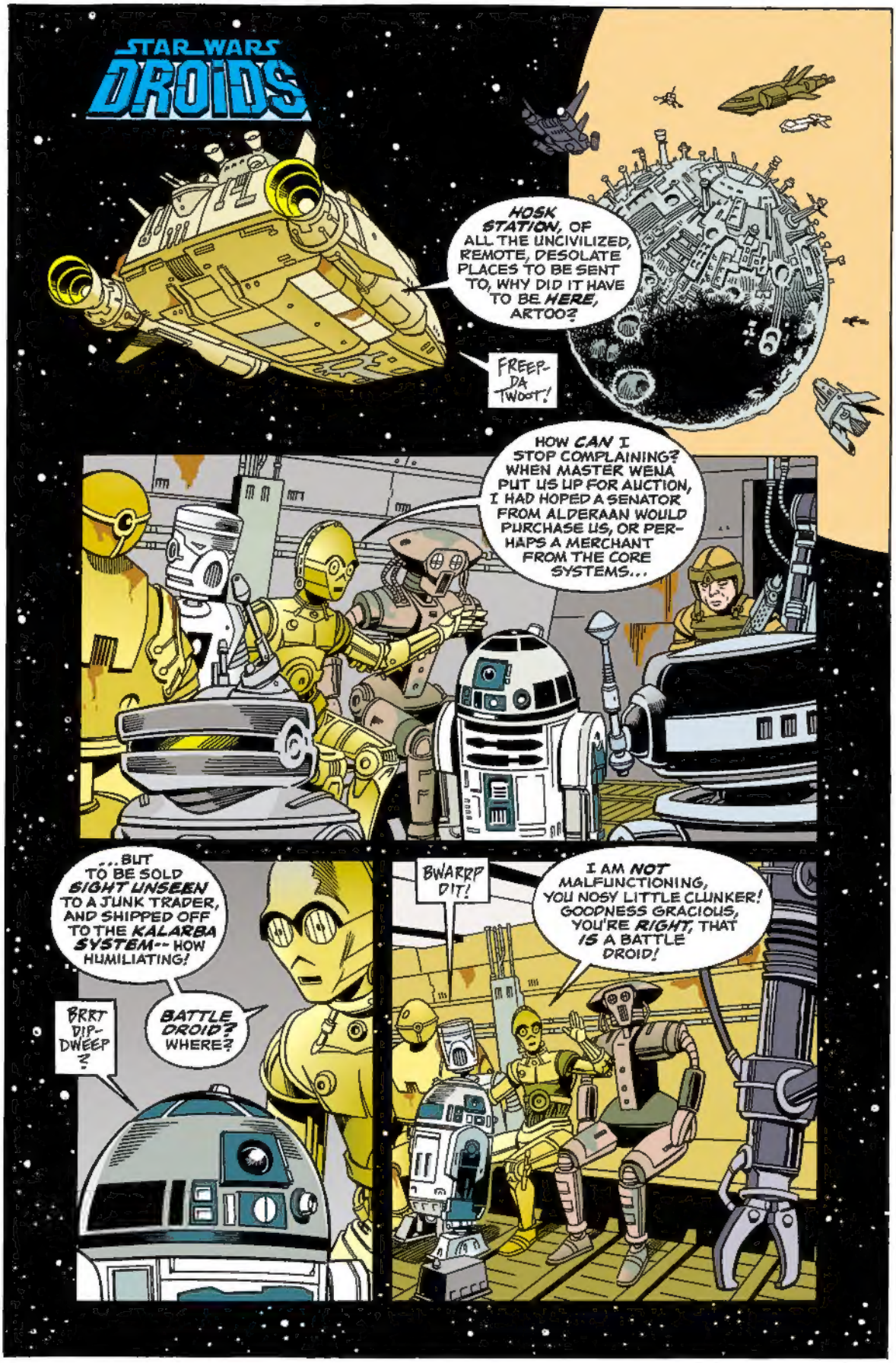
—Ryder Windham
January 28, 2008

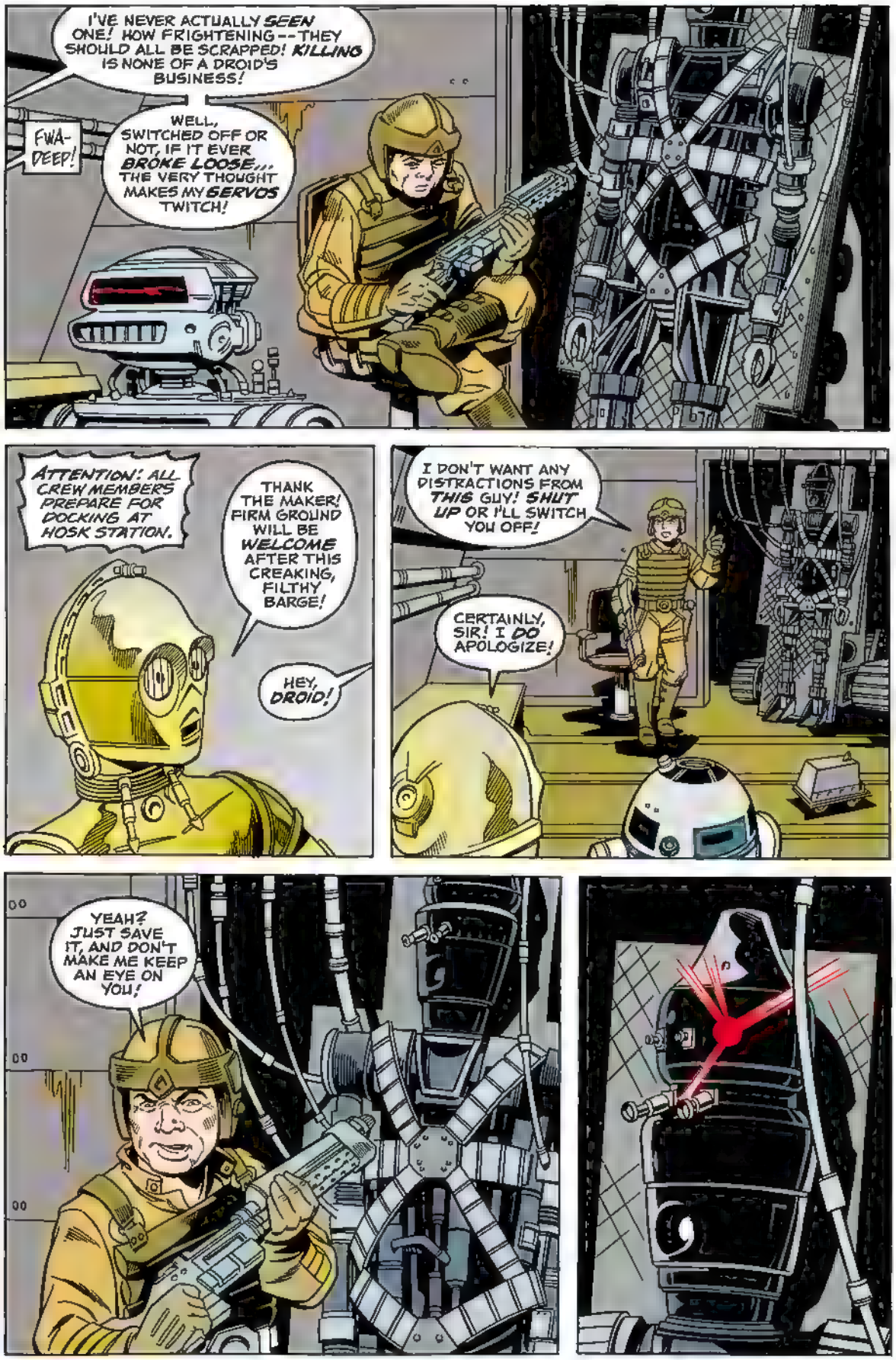
In a galaxy where the Republic and its Jedi protectors have been forgotten for nearly fifteen years, provincal leaders and wily criminals vie for whatever wealth and power are not locked down by the Galactic Empire. Largely beneath the interest of the Imperial eye, strange star systems and wondrous worlds await wayward travelers—and droids too unlucky to end up anywhere else . . .

Droids Special | illustration by Kilian Plunkett

Approximately five and a half years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

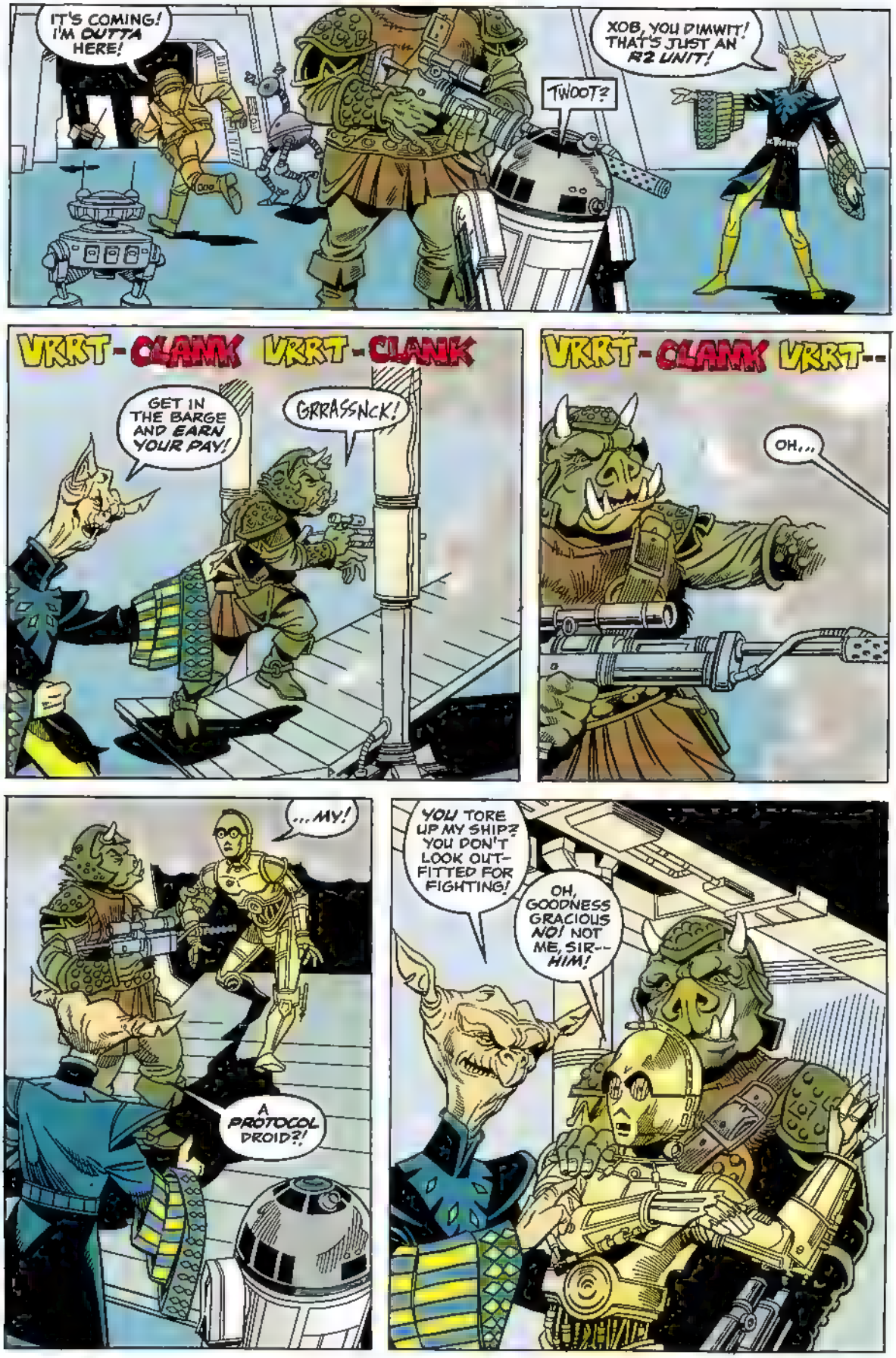
script by Dan Thorsland
pencils by Bill Hughes
inks by Andy Mushynsky
colors by Pamela Rambo
letters by Bill Pearson

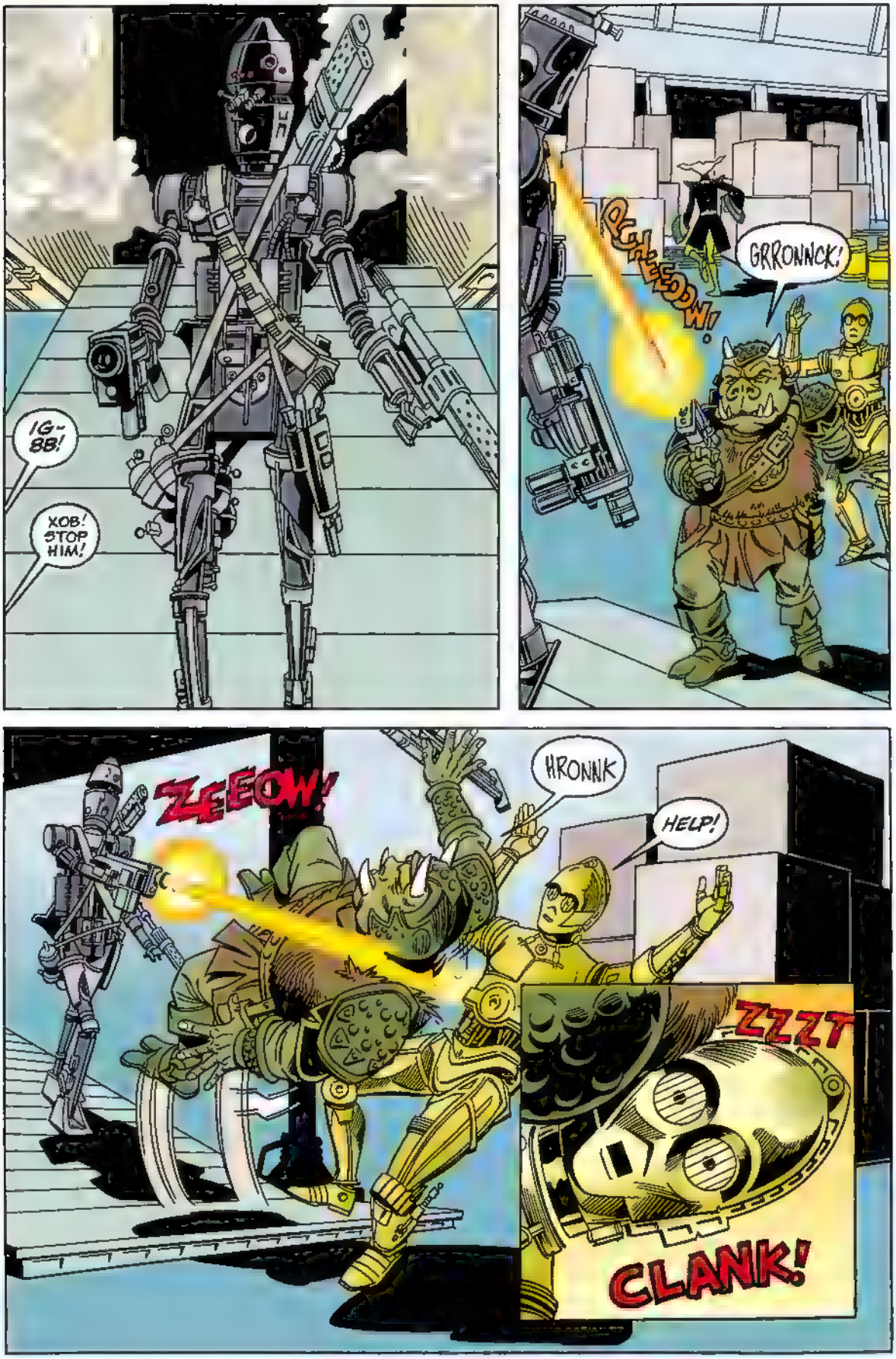

STAR WARS
DROIDS
HOSK STATION, OF ALL THE UNCIVILIZED, REMOTE, DESOLATE PLACES TO BE SENT TO, WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE HERE, ARTOO?
FREEP-DA TWOOT!
HOW CAN I STOP COMPLAINING? WHEN MASTER WENA PUT US UP FOR AUCTION, I HAD HOPED A SENATOR FROM ALDERAAN WOULD PURCHASE US, OR PERHAPS A MERCHANT FROM THE CORE SYSTEMS...
...BUT TO BE SOLD SIGHT UNSEEN TO A JUNK TRADER, AND SHIPPED OFF TO THE KALARBA SYSTEM-- HOW HUMILIATING!
BRRT DIP-DWEEP ?
BATTLE DROID? WHERE?
BWARRP DIT!
I AM NOT MALFUNCTIONING, YOU NOSY LITTLE CLUNKER! GOODNESS GRACIOUS, YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT IS A BATTLE DROID!

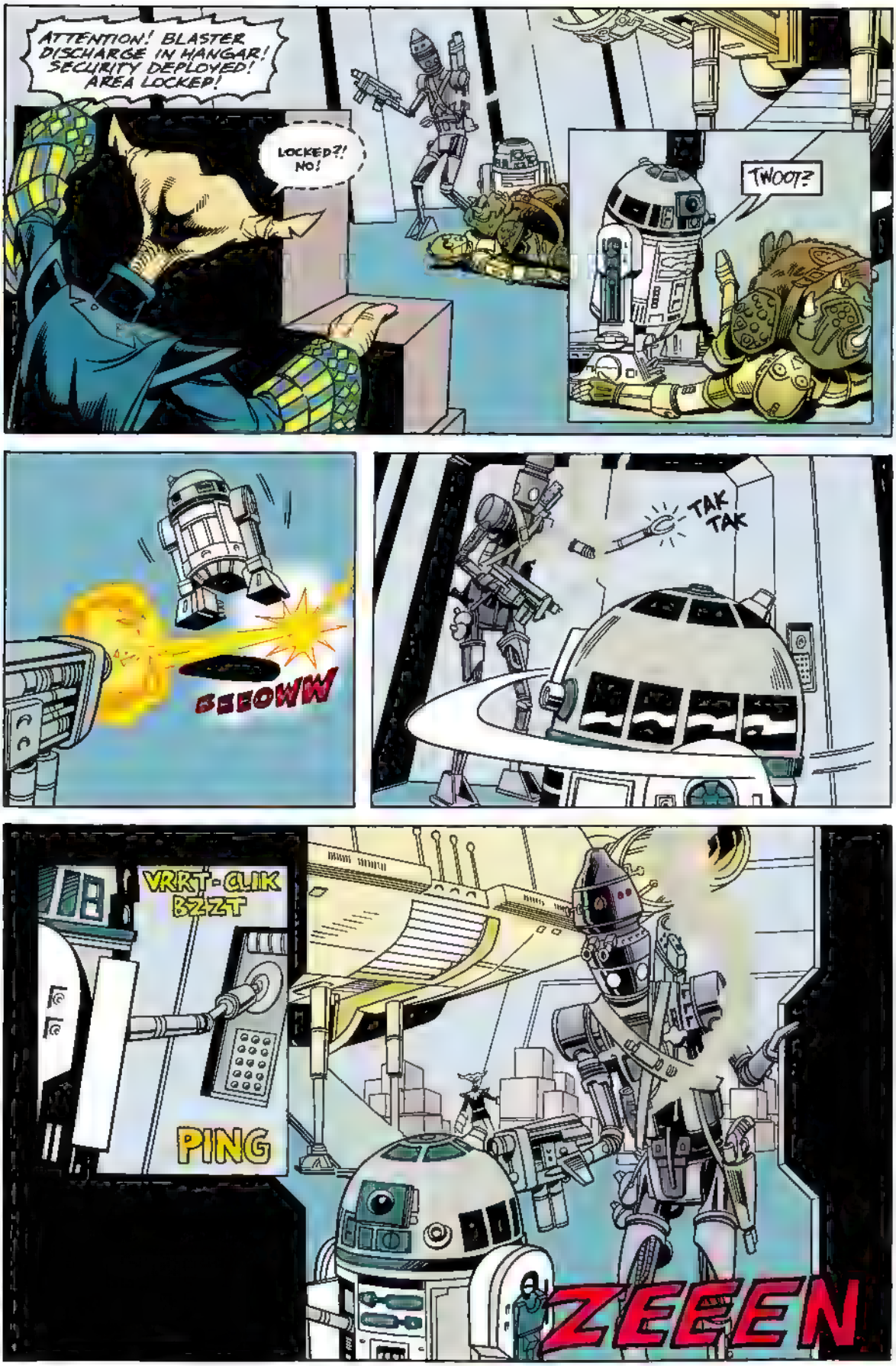

I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN ONE! HOW FRIGHTENING--THEY SHOULD ALL BE SCRAPPED! KILLING IS NONE OF A DROID'S BUSINESS!
FWA-DEEP!
WELL, SWITCHED OFF OR NOT, IF IT EVER BROKE LOOSE,... THE VERY THOUGHT MAKES MY SERVOS TWITCH!
ATTENTION! ALL CREW MEMBERS PREPARE FOR DOCKING AT HOSK STATION.
THANK THE MAKER! FIRM GROUND WILL BE WELCOME AFTER THIS CREAKING, FILTHY BARGE!
HEY, DROID!
I DON'T WANT ANY DISTRACTIONS FROM THIS GUY! SHUT UP OR I'LL SWITCH YOU OFF!
CERTAINLY, SIR! I DO APOLOGIZE!
YEAH? JUST SAVE IT, AND DON'T MAKE ME KEEP AN EYE ON YOU!

DROID BARGE DOCKING AT HANGAR THREE.
SNRRNK!
WELL DONE. IMAGINE... ONE OF MY COMPETITORS TRYING TO KILL ME, OLAG GRECK... WITH A DROID!
WHY ELSE WOULD IT HAVE STOWED AWAY IN MY SPICE SHIPMENT? THIS DROID IS A LEGEND AMONG BOUNTY HUNTERS, IF ITS BATTERIES HADN'T DRAINED...
...THEIR PLAN MIGHT HAVE WORKED.
TO THE HANGAR, XOB. FIRST...
"WE'LL RUN A MEMORY FLUSH, I'LL TURN THEIR HIRED ASSASSIN INTO MY EMPLOYEE!
"THEN I'LL SCHEDULE A FIGHT IN THE HOSK ARENA. EVEN MY ENEMIES WILL PAY GOOD MONEY TO SEE THE MOST LETHAL DROID IN THE GALAXY...
"... FIGHTING TO THE DEATH!"
SPACK

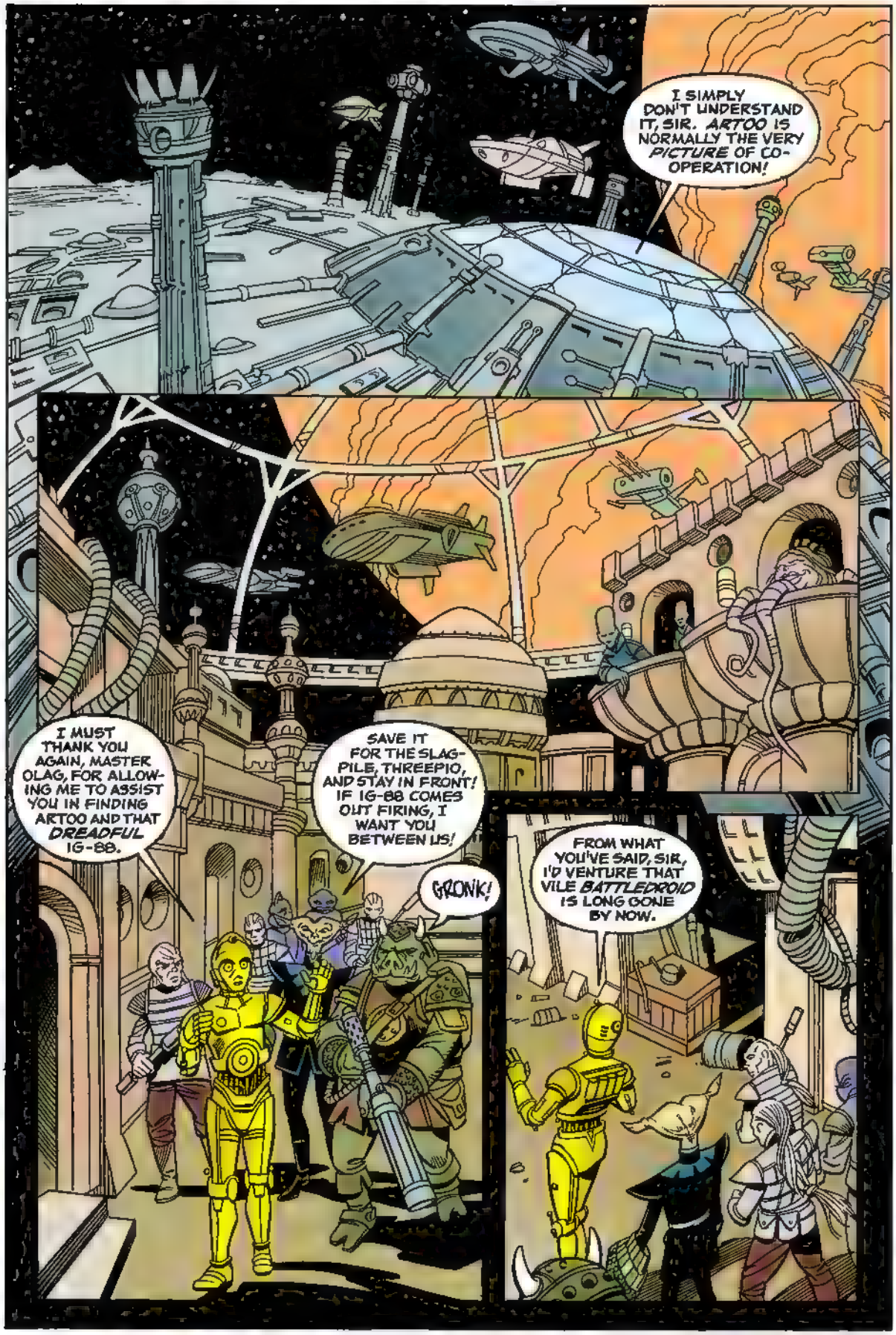
IT'S STILL IN CYBEROSTASIS, SO IT POSES NO--
BARDO! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY SHIP?
⇒KAFF-KAFF!⇐ THAT THING... IT GOT LOOSE!
GOT LOOSE?! HOW?! THOSE SHACKLES ARE MADE OF CARBONITE!
PROGRAM TRAP... BOOSTED ITS SERVOS WHEN WE WERE LANDING! IT'S TEARING THE SHIP APART! ⇒KAFFE!⇐ YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT! IT'S GONNA GET YOU!
GRRNNUK?
VEEP!
TWOOT!
SSSNORRCK?!
AAAARGH!
WHIRRR
VRRT-VRRT

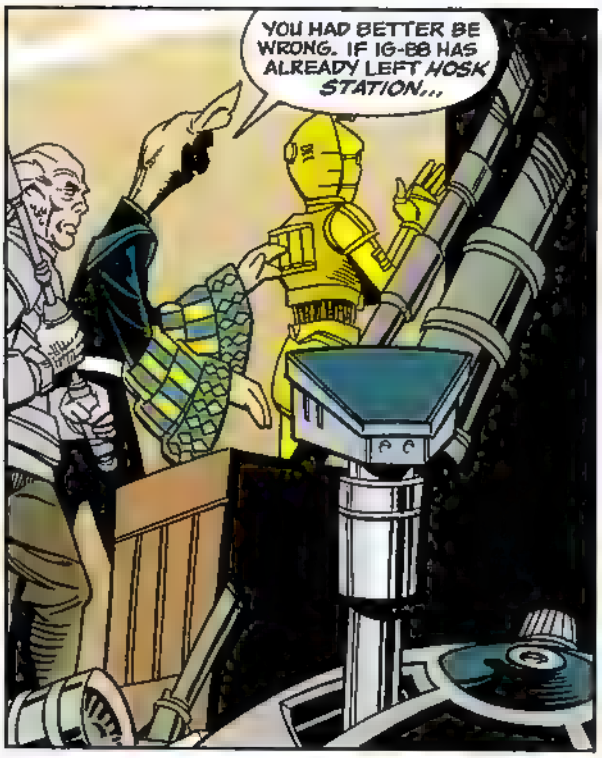

IT'S COMING! I'M OUTTA HERE!
XOB, YOU DIMWIT! THAT'S JUST AN R2 UNIT!
TWOOT?
VRRT-CLANK VRRT-CLANK
GET IN THE BARGE AND EARN YOUR PAY!
GRRASSNCK!
VRRT-CLANK VRRT--
OH...
...MY!
A PROTOCOL DROID?!
YOU TORE UP MY SHIP? YOU DON'T LOOK OUT-FITTED FOR FIGHTING!
OH, GOODNESS GRACIOUS NO! NOT ME, SIR-- HIM!

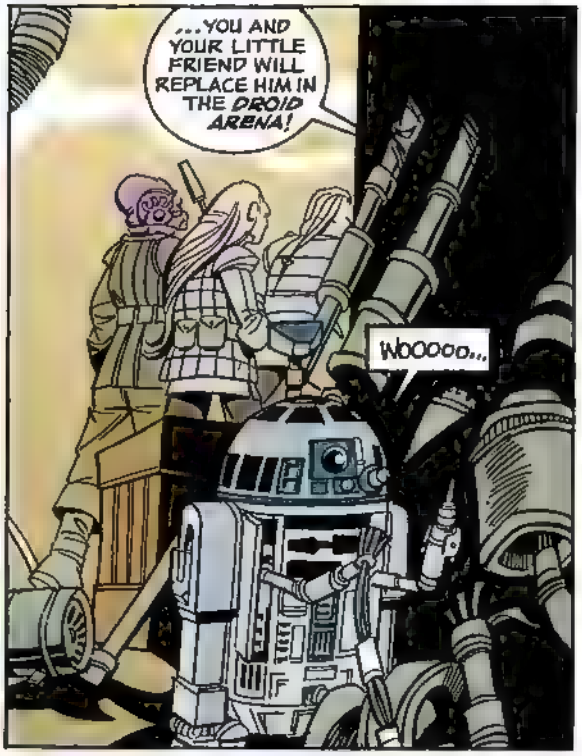

IG-88!
XOB! STOP HIM!
GRRONNCK!
ZEEOW!
HRONNK
HELP!
ZZZT
CLANK!

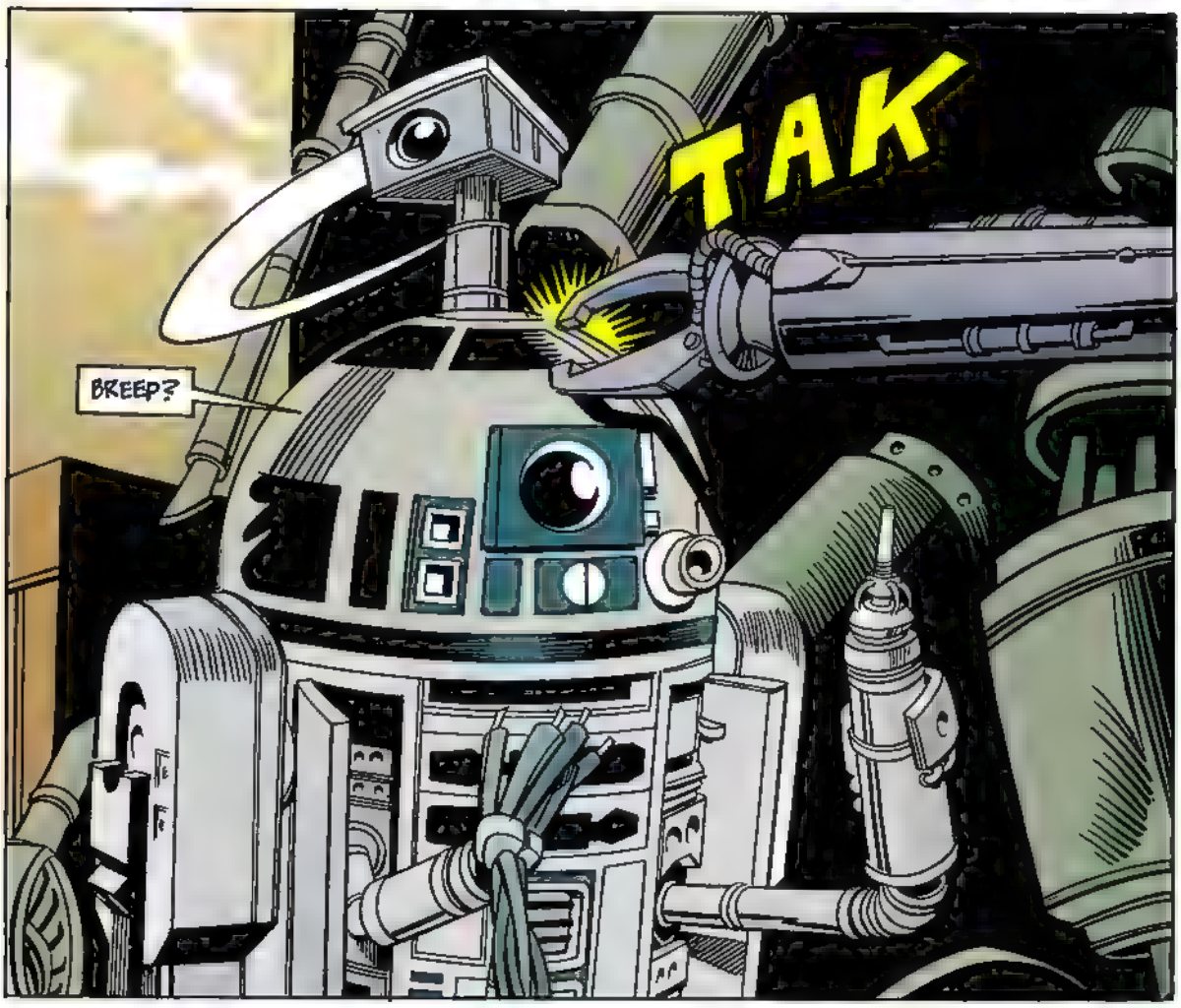

ATTENTION! BLASTER DISCHARGE IN HANGAR! SECURITY DEPLOYED! AREA LOCKED!
LOCKED?! NO!
TWOOT?
SHEOWW
TAK TAK
VRRT-CLIK BZZT
PING
ZEEEN

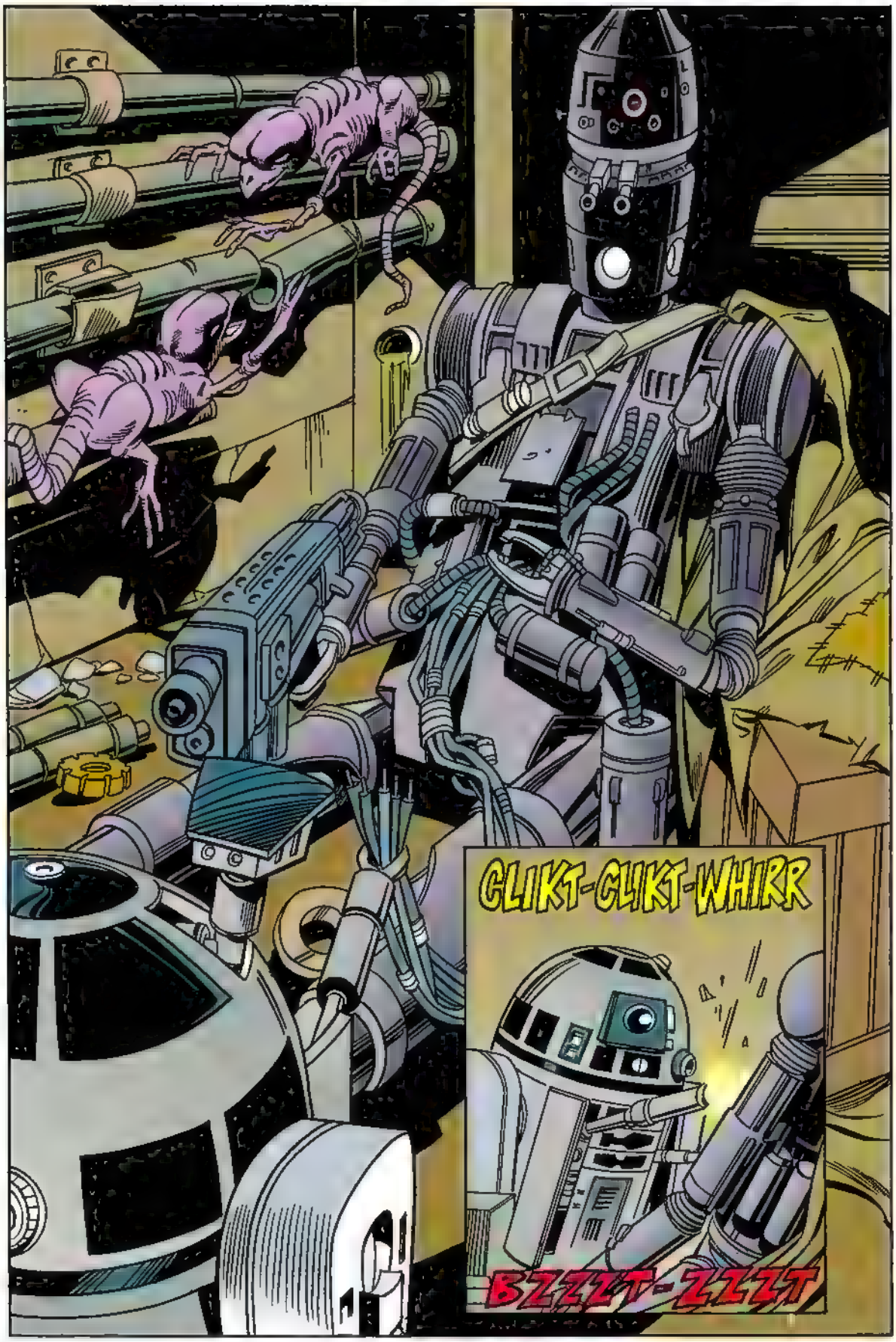
TWHOOOooo...
XOB... XOB! GET UP-- HE'S GOTTEN AWAY!
GRRNNK...
THE DEADLIEST DROID IN THE GALAXY... LOOSE IN MY STATION! WRETCHED MACHINES!
KLANK!
BRZT
OH, MY! WHAT HAP-PENED? ARTOO?
YOU KNOW THAT R2 UNIT?
WHY, YES SIR! HE AND I HAVE WORKED TOGETHER FOR QUITE SOME TIME. PERHAPS I CAN BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING HIM?
YOU CAN BE ALL ASSISTANCE! WITH OR WITHOUT YOU, WE'LL TRACK DOWN IG-88, AND IF YOUR LITTLE FRIEND IS HELPING THAT STEEL-PLATED KILLER...
... I'LL MELT THEM BOTH DOWN TO SLAG!

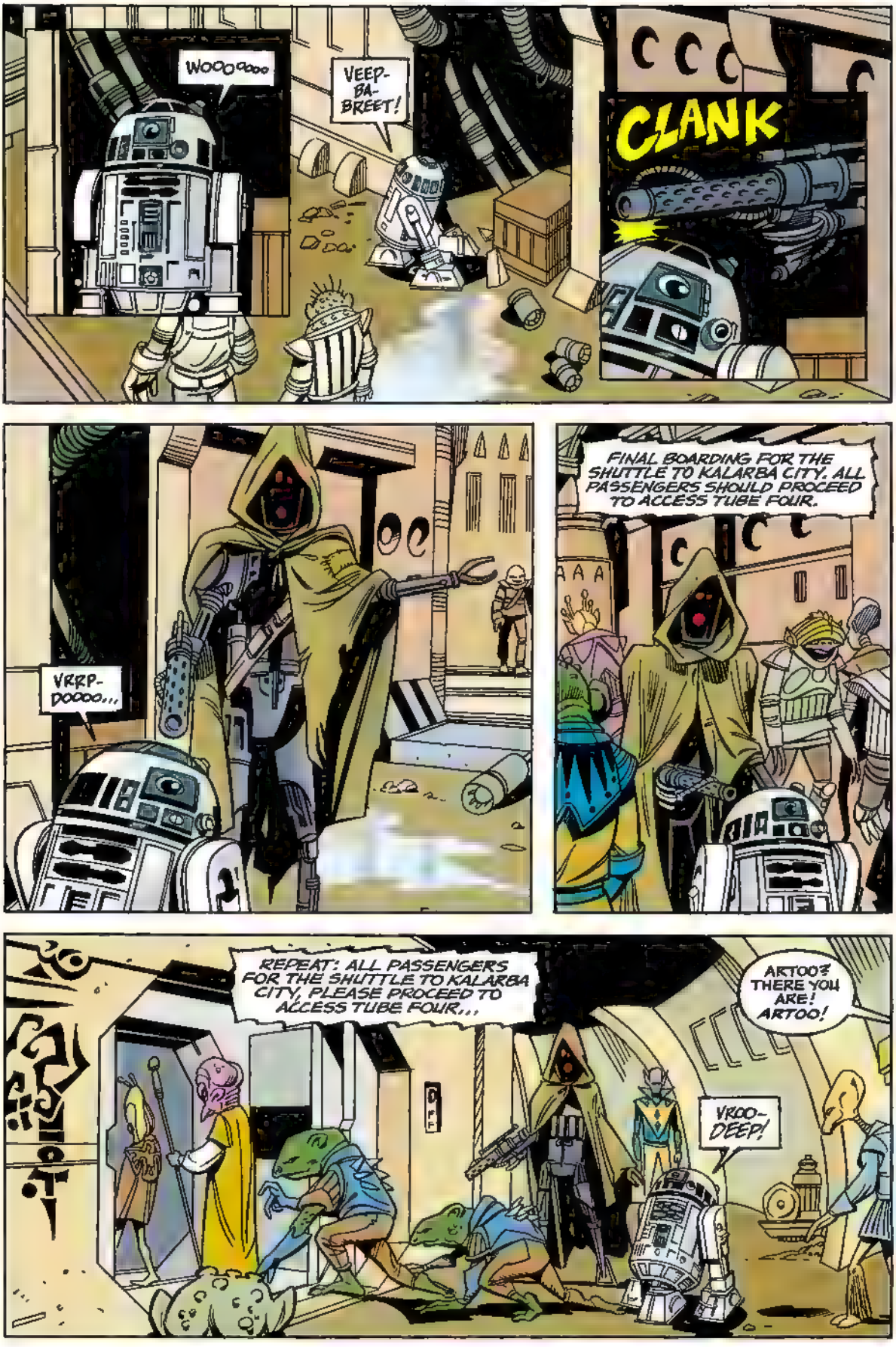

I SIMPLY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR. ARTOO IS NORMALLY THE VERY PICTURE OF CO-OPERATION!
I MUST THANK YOU AGAIN, MASTER OLAG, FOR ALLOWING ME TO ASSIST YOU IN FINDING ARTOO AND THAT DREADFUL IG-88.
SAVE IT FOR THE SLAG-PILE, THREEPIO, AND STAY IN FRONT! IF IG-88 COMES OUT FIRING, I WANT YOU BETWEEN US!
GRONK!
FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID, SIR, I'D VENTURE THAT VILE BATTLEDROID IS LONG GONE BY NOW.


YOU HAD BETTER BE WRONG. IF IG-88 HAS ALREADY LEFT HOSK STATION...

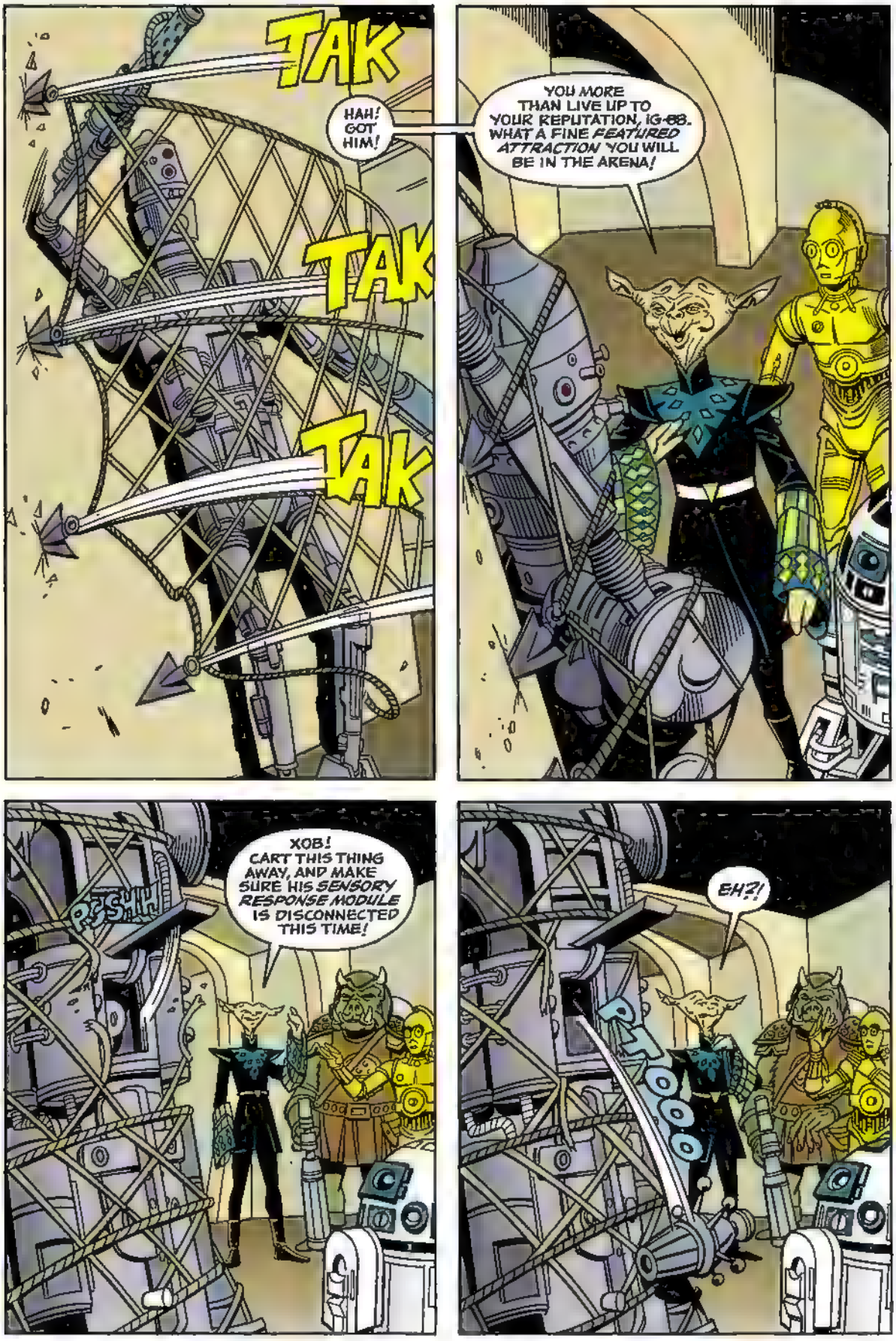

...YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FRIEND WILL REPLACE HIM IN THE DROID ARENA!
WOOOOO...

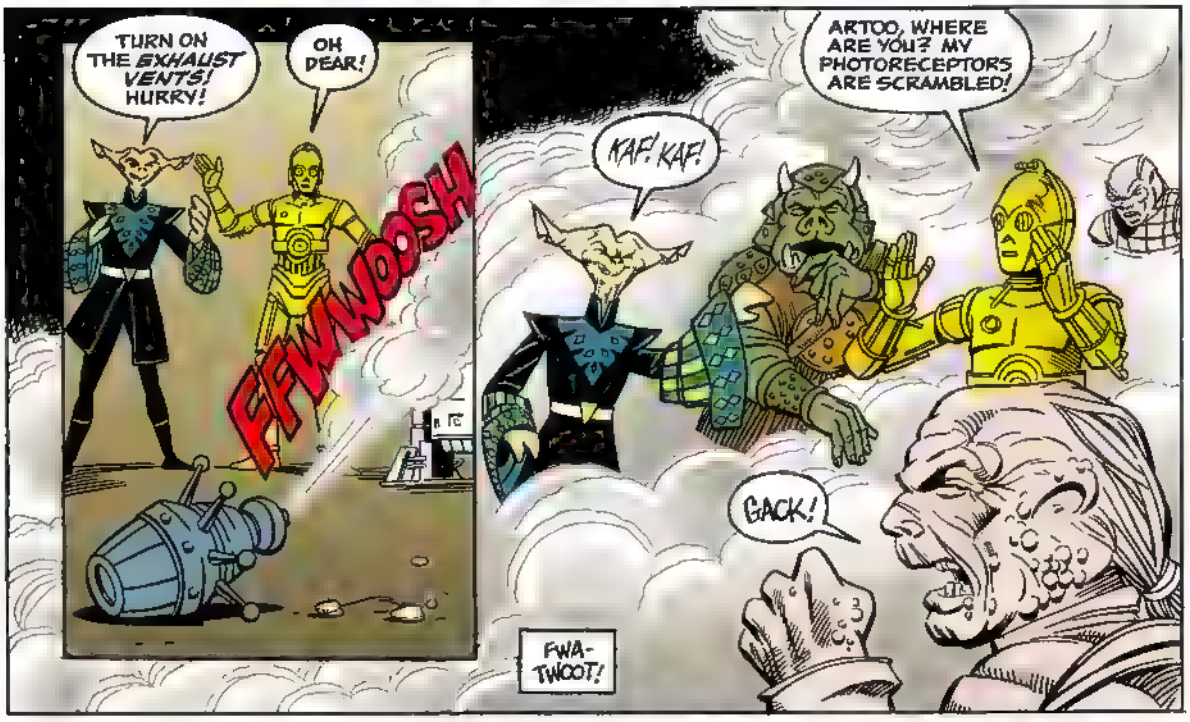

TAK
BREEP?

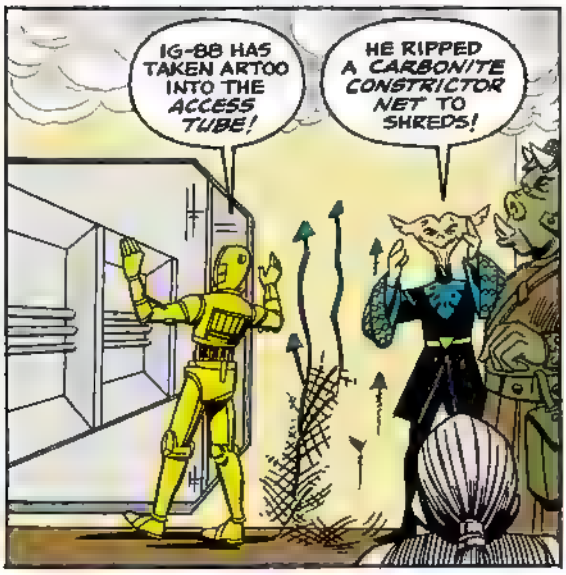

CLIKT-CLIKT-WHIRR
BZZZT-ZZZT

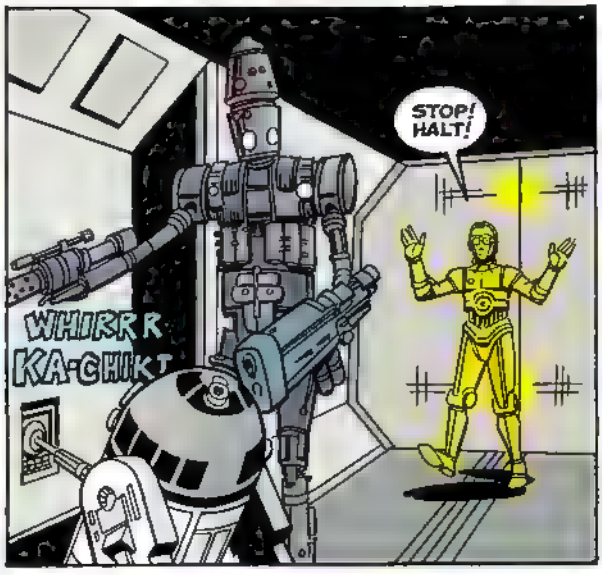

WOOOoooo
VEEP-BA-BREET!
CLANK
VRRP-DOOOO...
FINAL BOARDING FOR THE SHUTTLE TO KALARBA CITY. ALL PASSENGERS SHOULD PROCEED TO ACCESS TUBE FOUR.
REPEAT: ALL PASSENGERS FOR THE SHUTTLE TO KALARBA CITY, PLEASE PROCEED TO ACCESS TUBE FOUR...
ARTOO? THERE YOU ARE! ARTOO!
VROO-DEEP!

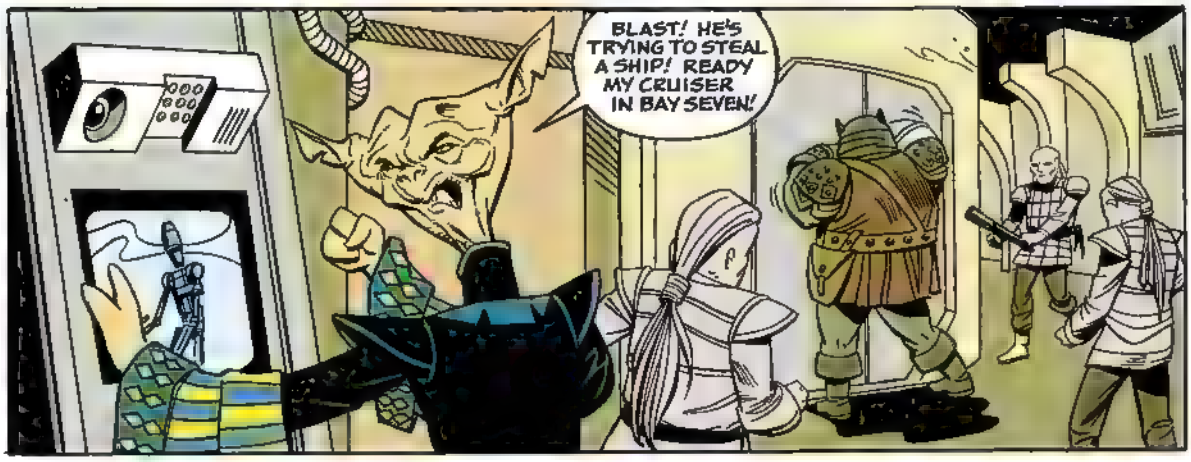
OVER HERE, ARTOO!
THERE HE IS, XOB! SHOOT!
GRUNK?
IG-88, IN THE CLOAK, YOU IDIOT! SHOOT!
OH, ARTOO! THANK GOOD-NESS!
TWEE-VEEP!
BZZZT
DUCK? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DUCK?
AAAAH!
CHOOM!
KLANK

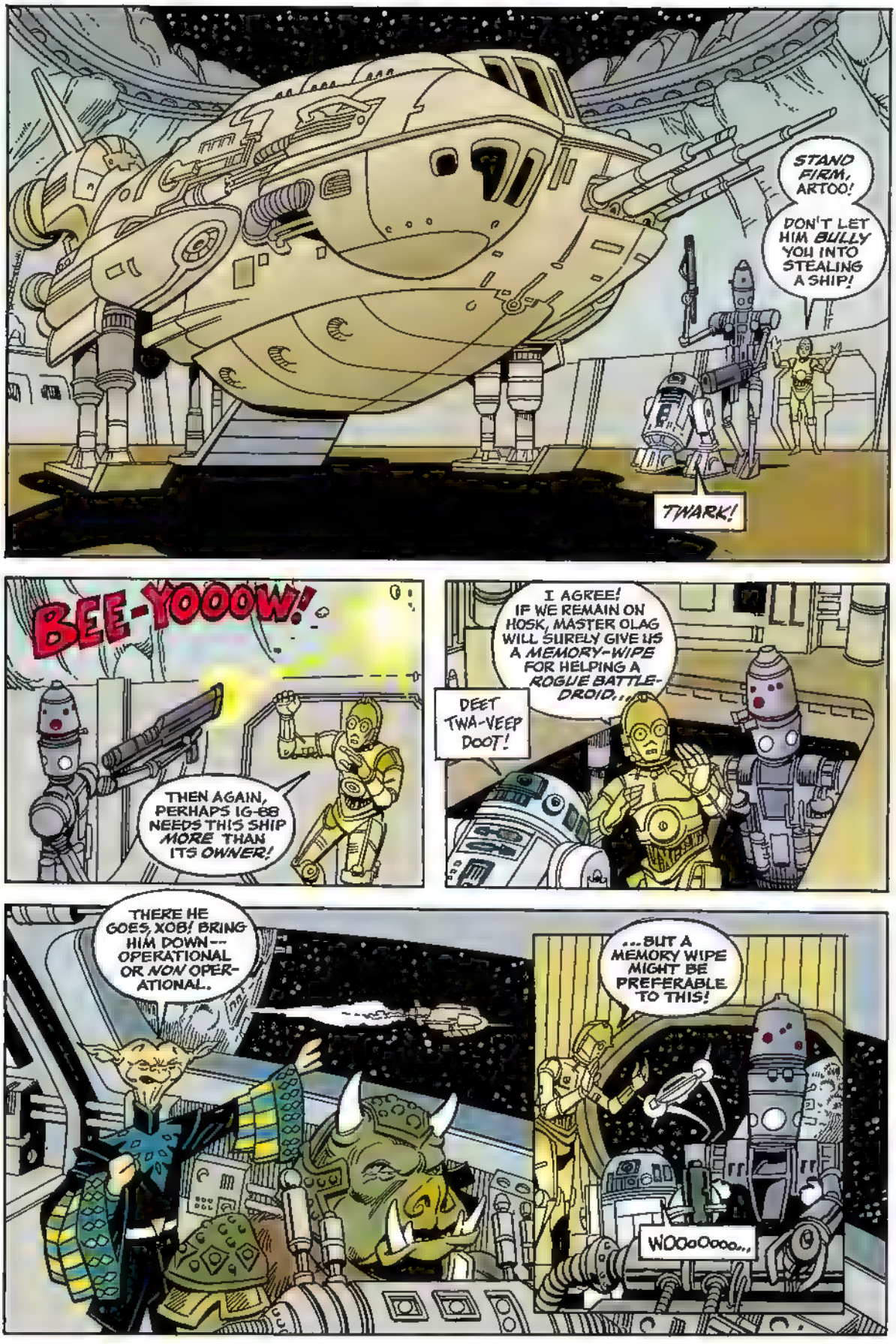

TAK
HAH! GOT HIM!
TAK
TAK
YOU MORE THAN LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION, IG-88. WHAT A FINE *FEATURED ATTRACTION* YOU WILL BE IN THE ARENA!
P'SHH
XOB! CART THIS THING AWAY, AND MAKE SURE HIS *SENSORY RESPONSE MODULE* IS DISCONNECTED THIS TIME!
EH?!
PTOOO

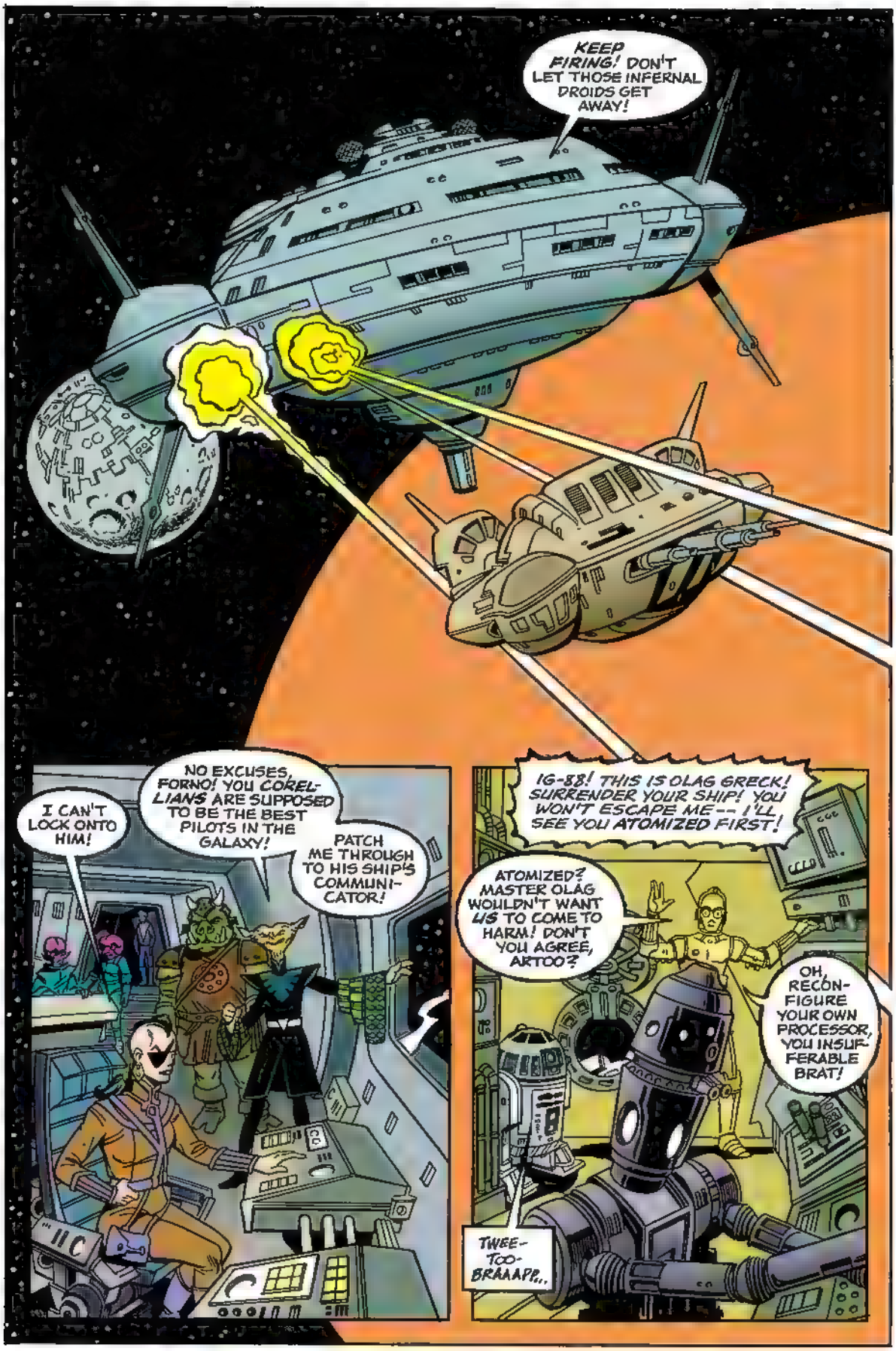

TURN ON THE EXHAUST VENTS! HURRY!
OH DEAR!
FFWWOOSH
ARTOO, WHERE ARE YOU? MY PHOTORECEPTORS ARE SCRAMBLED!
KAF! KAF!
GACK!
FWA-TWOOT!

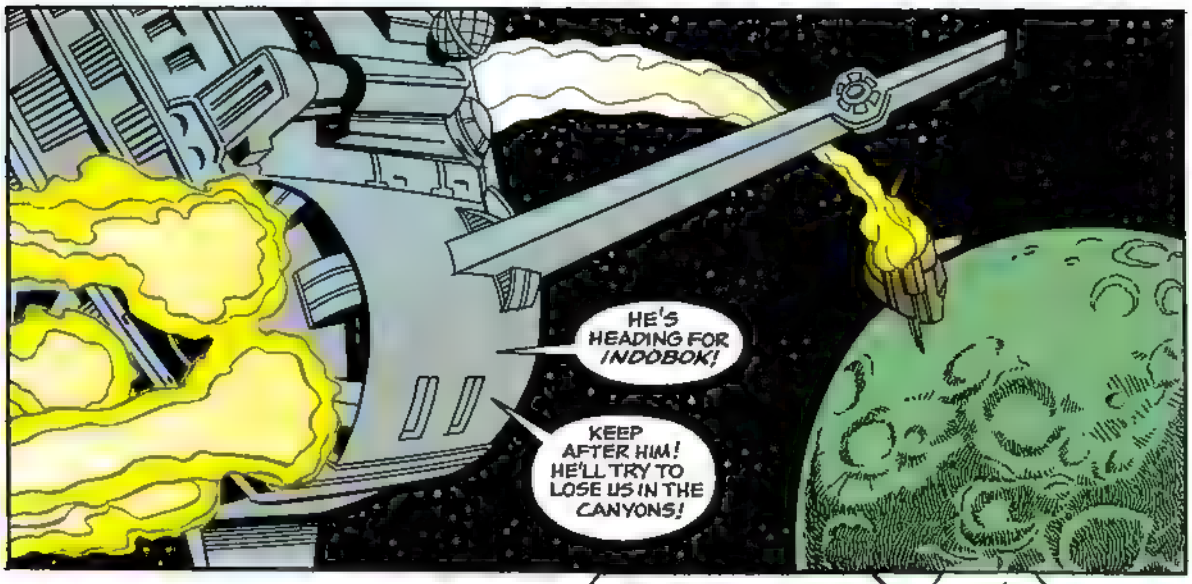

IG-88 HAS TAKEN ARTOO INTO THE ACCESS TUBE!
HE RIPPED A CARBONITE CONSTRICTOR NET TO SHREDS!

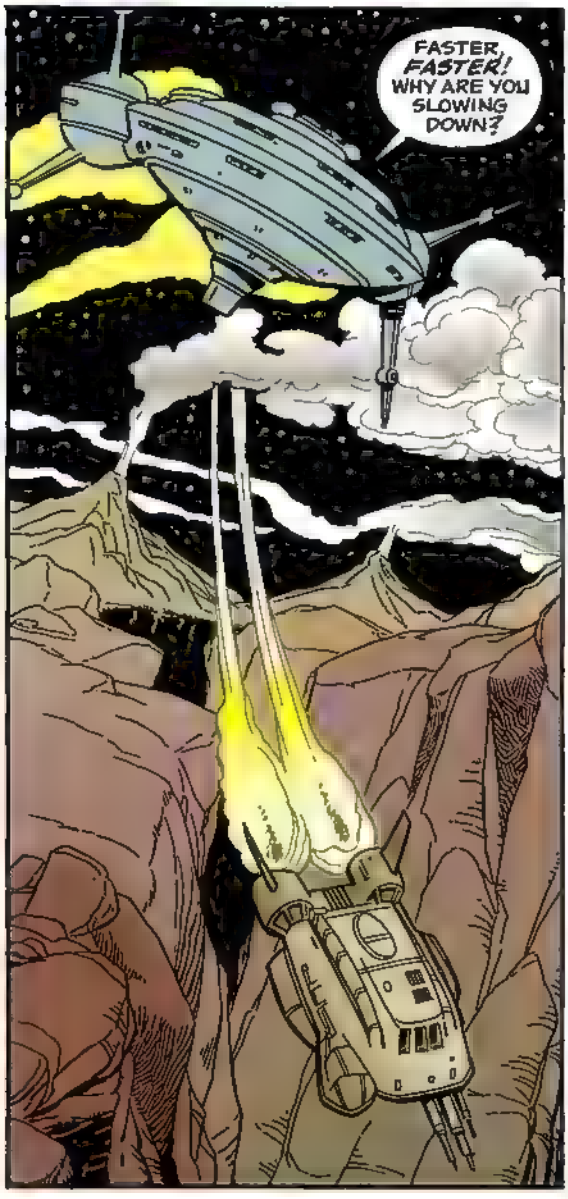

STOP! HALT!
WHIRRR
KA-CHIK!

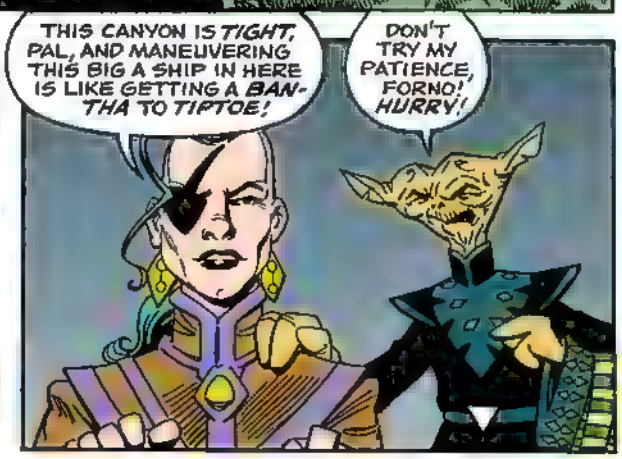

BLAST! HE'S TRYING TO STEAL A SHIP! READY MY CRUISER IN BAY SEVEN!


STAND FIRM, ARTOO!
DON'T LET HIM BULLY YOU INTO STEALING A SHIP!
TWARK!
BEE-YOOOW!
THEN AGAIN, PERHAPS IG-88 NEEDS THIS SHIP MORE THAN ITS OWNER!
I AGREE! IF WE REMAIN ON HOSK, MASTER OLAG WILL SURELY GIVE US A MEMORY-WIPE FOR HELPING A ROGUE BATTLE-DROID...
DEET TWA-VEEP DOOT!
THERE HE GOES, XOB! BRING HIM DOWN--- OPERATIONAL OR NON OPERATIONAL.
...BUT A MEMORY WIPE MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO THIS!
WOOoOooo...


KEEP FIRING! DON'T LET THOSE INFERNAL DROIDS GET AWAY!
I CAN'T LOCK ONTO HIM!
NO EXCUSES, FORNO! YOU CORELLIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST PILOTS IN THE GALAXY!
PATCH ME THROUGH TO HIS SHIP'S COMMUNICATOR!
IG-88! THIS IS OLAG GRECK! SURRENDER YOUR SHIP! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME -- I'LL SEE YOU ATOMIZED FIRST!
ATOMIZED? MASTER OLAG WOULDN'T WANT US TO COME TO HARM! DON'T YOU AGREE, ARTOO?
OH, RECONFIGURE YOUR OWN PROCESSOR, YOU INSUFFERABLE BRAT!
TWEE-TOO-BRAAAPP...

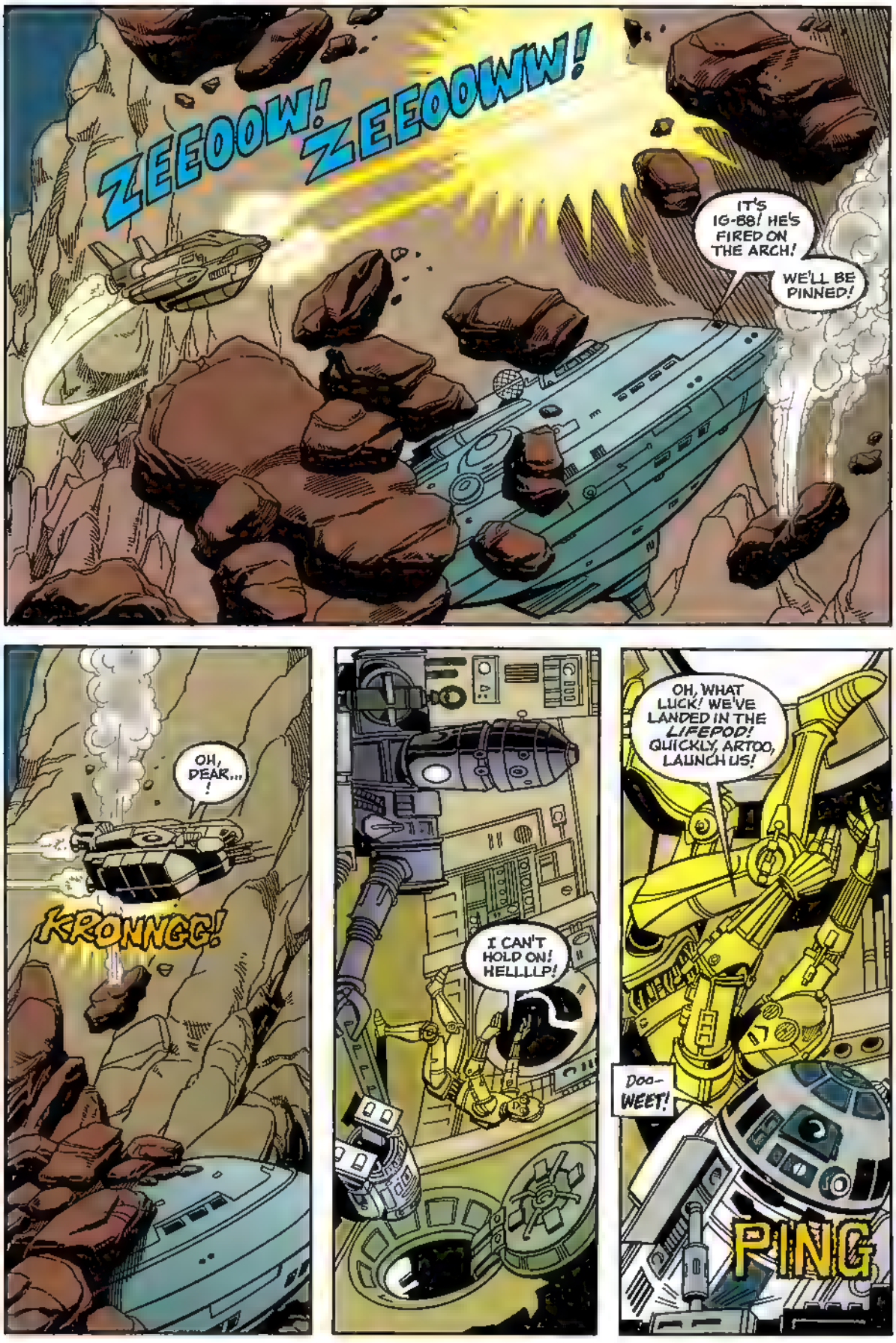

HE'S HEADING FOR INDOBOK!
KEEP AFTER HIM! HE'LL TRY TO LOSE US IN THE CANYONS!


FASTER, FASTER! WHY ARE YOU SLOWING DOWN?

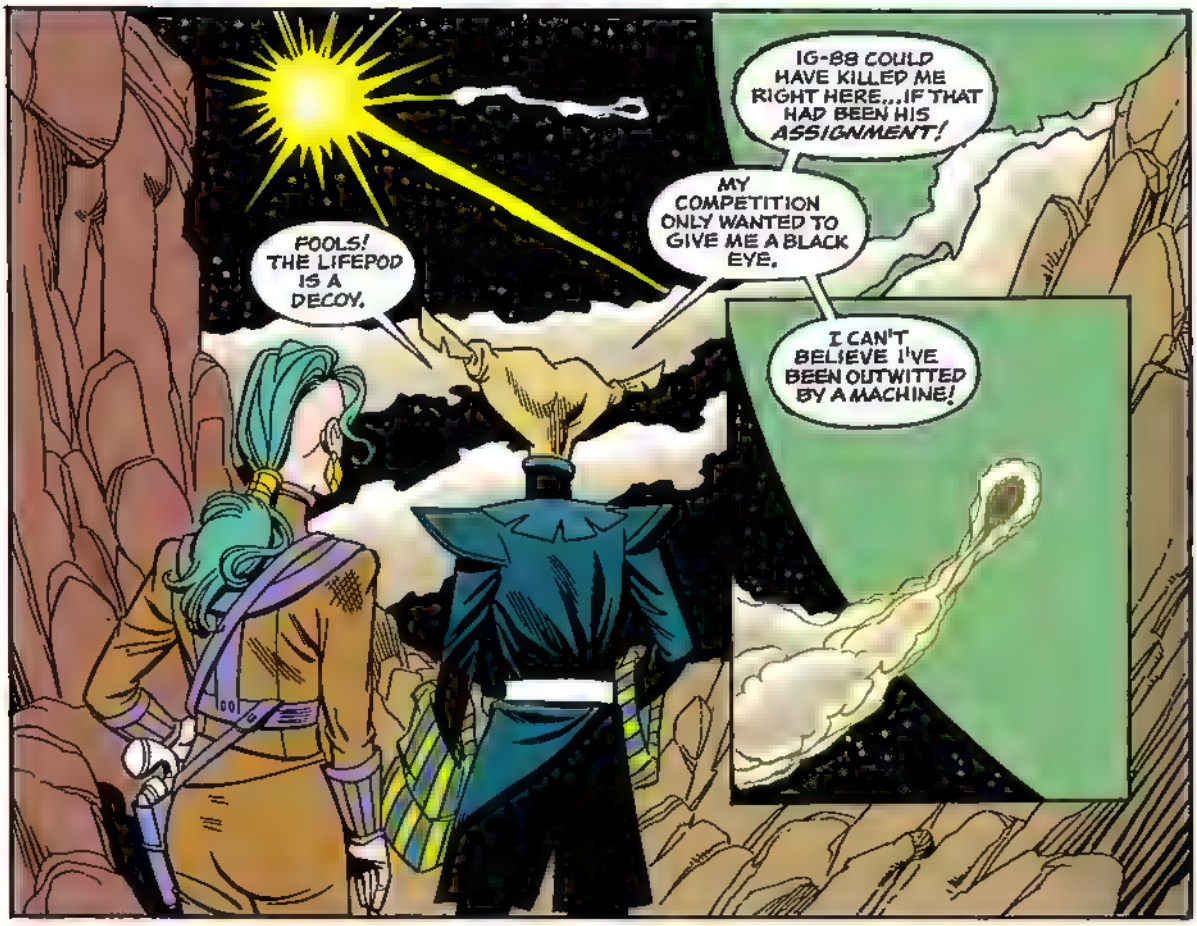

THIS CANYON IS TIGHT, PAL, AND MANEUVERING THIS BIG A SHIP IN HERE IS LIKE GETTING A BANTHA TO TIPTOE!
DON'T TRY MY PATIENCE, FORNO! HURRY!

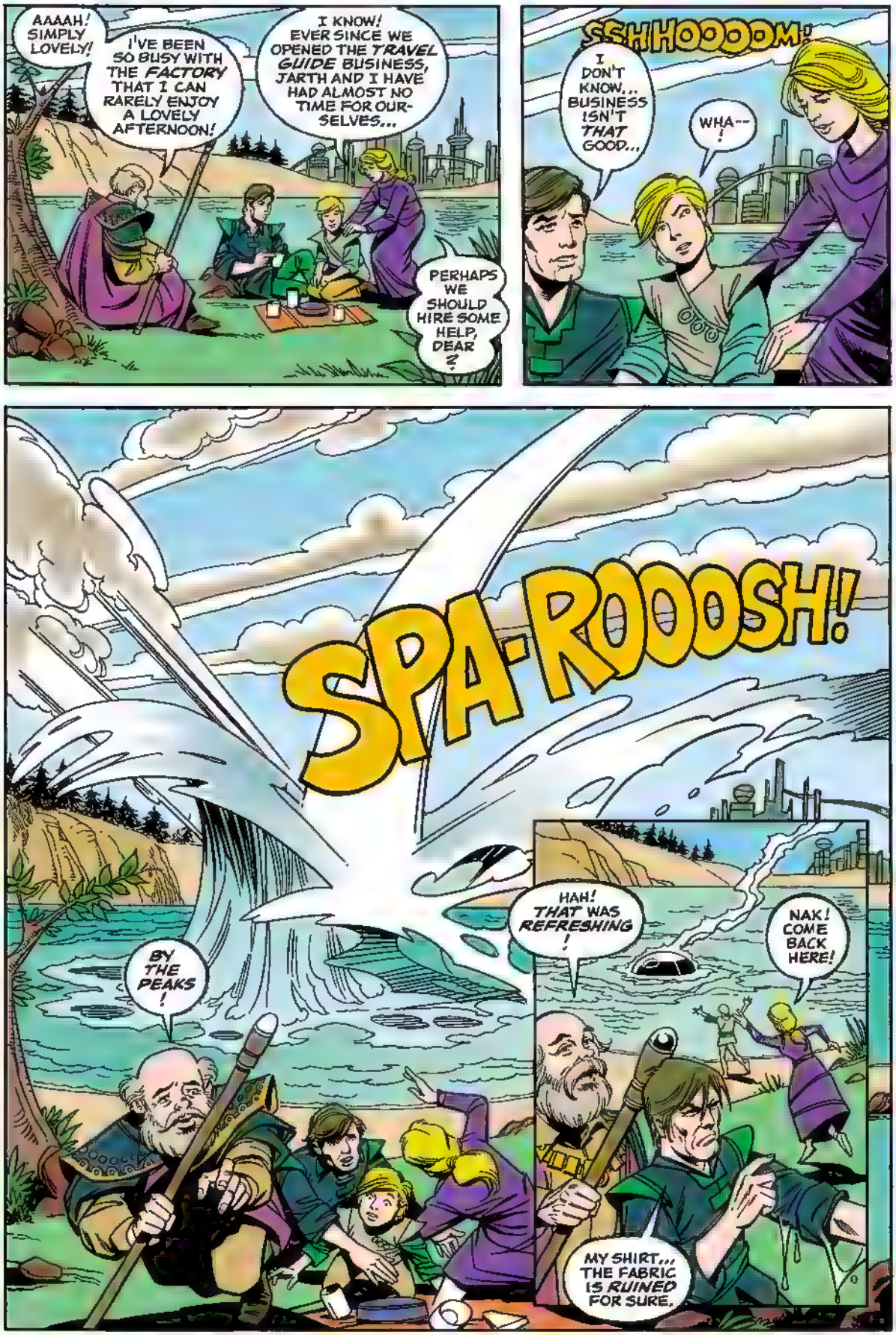
KRRODNNG!

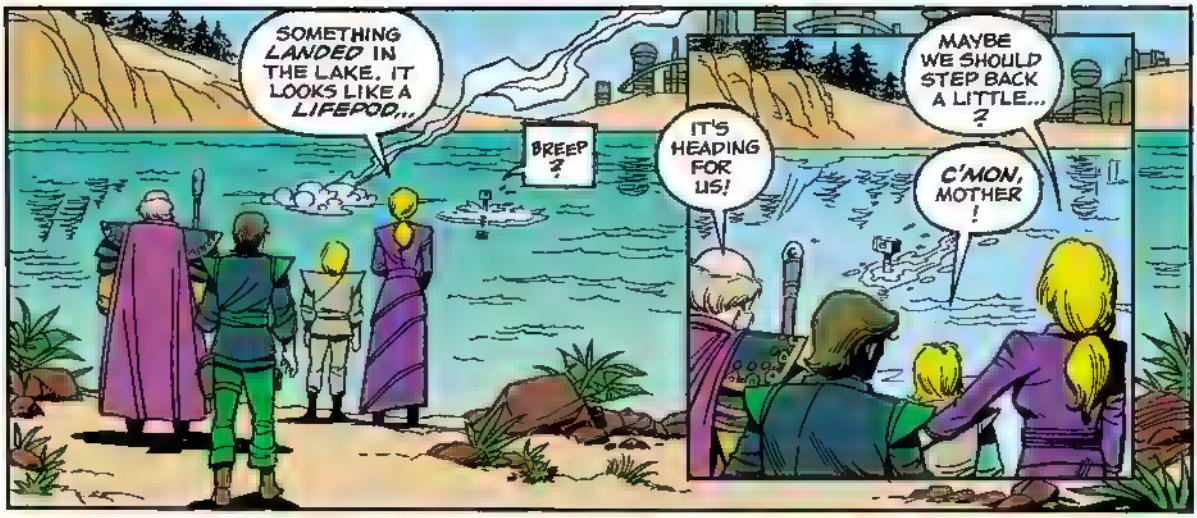
YOU'RE DESTROYING MY SHIP!
COOL YOUR NOZZLES! I WARNED YOU, DIDN'T I?
GREAT! OUR ATTITUDE THRUSTERS ARE DAMAGED! WE'LL HAVE TO CRAWL THROUGH THIS CANYON NOW!
HE'S VANISHED! I CAN'T SEE OR SCAN HIM!
VOOOM!
NO EXCUSES, FORNO! KEEP LOOKING.
SURE, SURE...
ZZZEEOOWW!

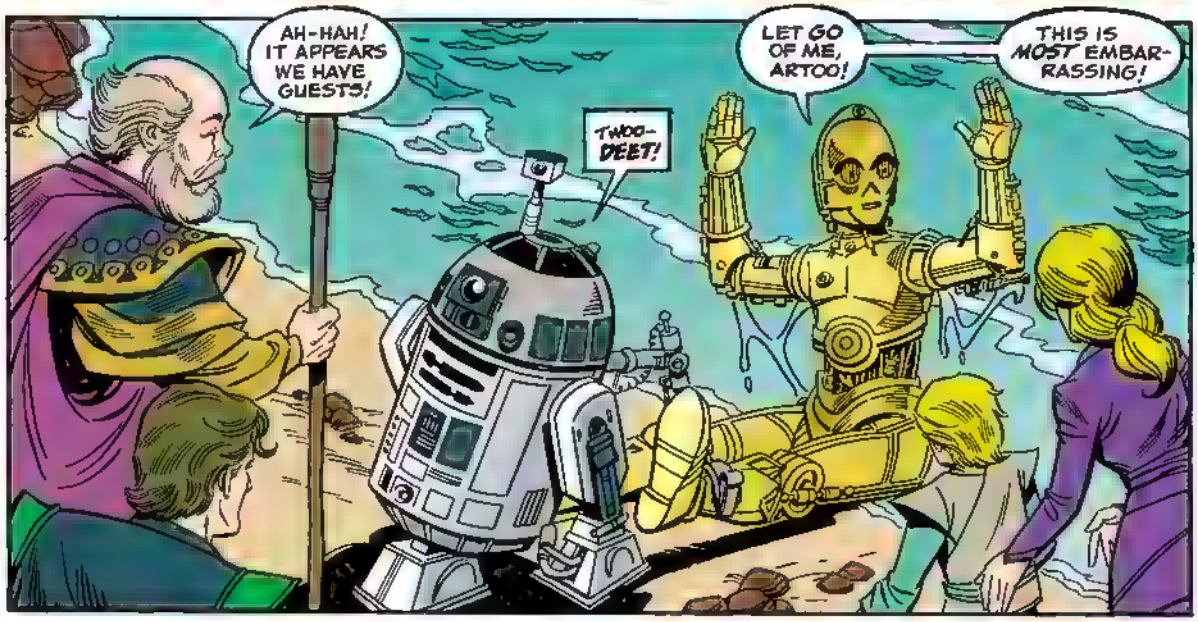

ZEEOOW!
ZEEOOWW!
IT'S IG-88! HE'S FIRED ON THE ARCH!
WE'LL BE PINNED!
OH, DEAR...!
KRONNGG!
I CAN'T HOLD ON! HELLLLP!
OH, WHAT LUCK! WE'VE LANDED IN THE LIFEPOD! QUICKLY, ARTOO, LAUNCH US!
Doo-WEET!
PING

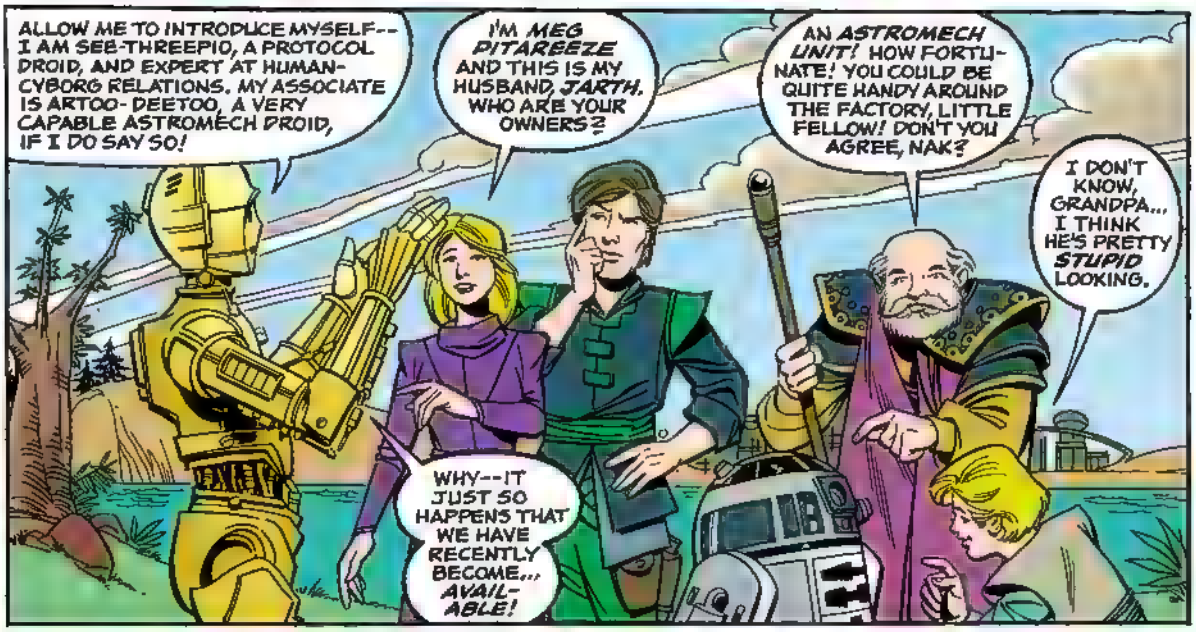
BHOOOOOM!
LOOK! A LIFEPOD WAS EJECTED BEFORE IG-88'S SHIP JUMPED TO HYPERSPACE. IT'S HEADING FOR KALARBA...
SHOULD WE TRACK IT AFTER WE DIG OUT?

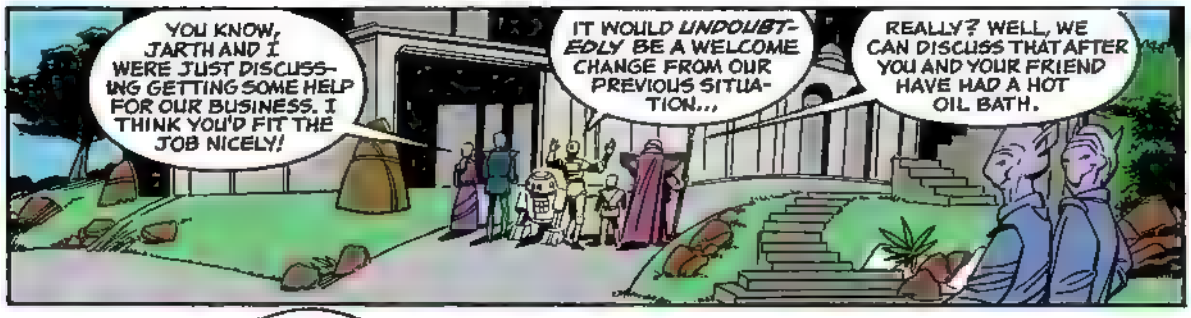

IG-88 COULD HAVE KILLED ME RIGHT HERE...IF THAT HAD BEEN HIS ASSIGNMENT!
MY COMPETITION ONLY WANTED TO GIVE ME A BLACK EYE.
FOOLS! THE LIFEPOD IS A DECOY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE BEEN OUTWITTED BY A MACHINE!

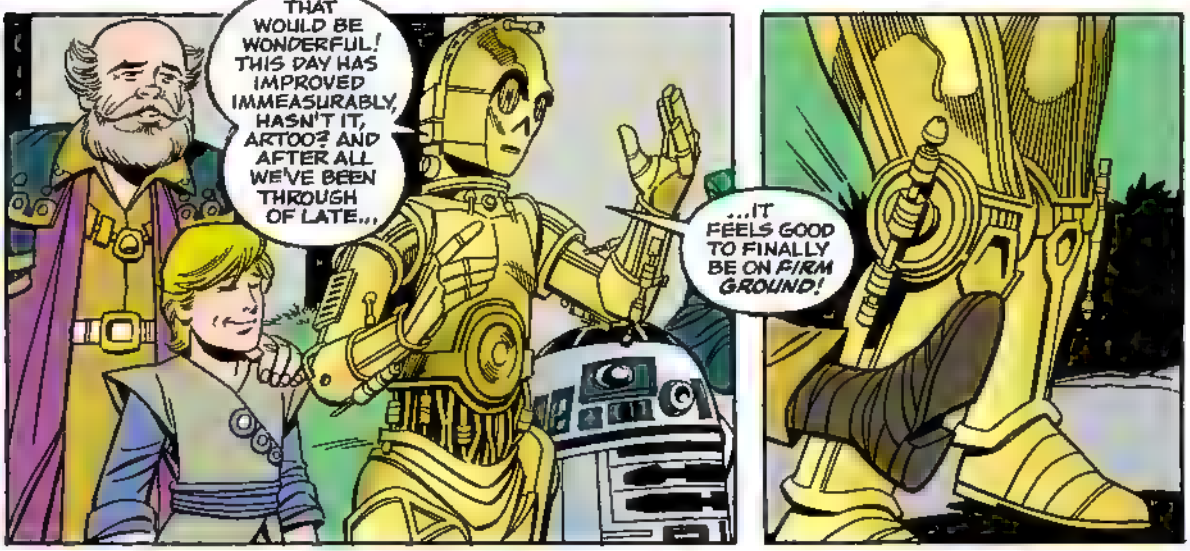

AAAAH! SIMPLY LOVELY!
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH THE FACTORY THAT I CAN RARELY ENJOY A LOVELY AFTERNOON!
I KNOW! EVER SINCE WE OPENED THE TRAVEL GUIDE BUSINESS, JARTH AND I HAVE HAD ALMOST NO TIME FOR OURSELVES...
PERHAPS WE SHOULD HIRE SOME HELP, DEAR?
SSHOOOOOM!
I DON'T KNOW... BUSINESS ISN'T THAT GOOD...
WHA--!
SPA-ROOOSH!
BY THE PEAKS!
HAH! THAT WAS REFRESHING!
NAK! COME BACK HERE!
MY SHIRT... THE FABRIC IS RUINED FOR SURE.

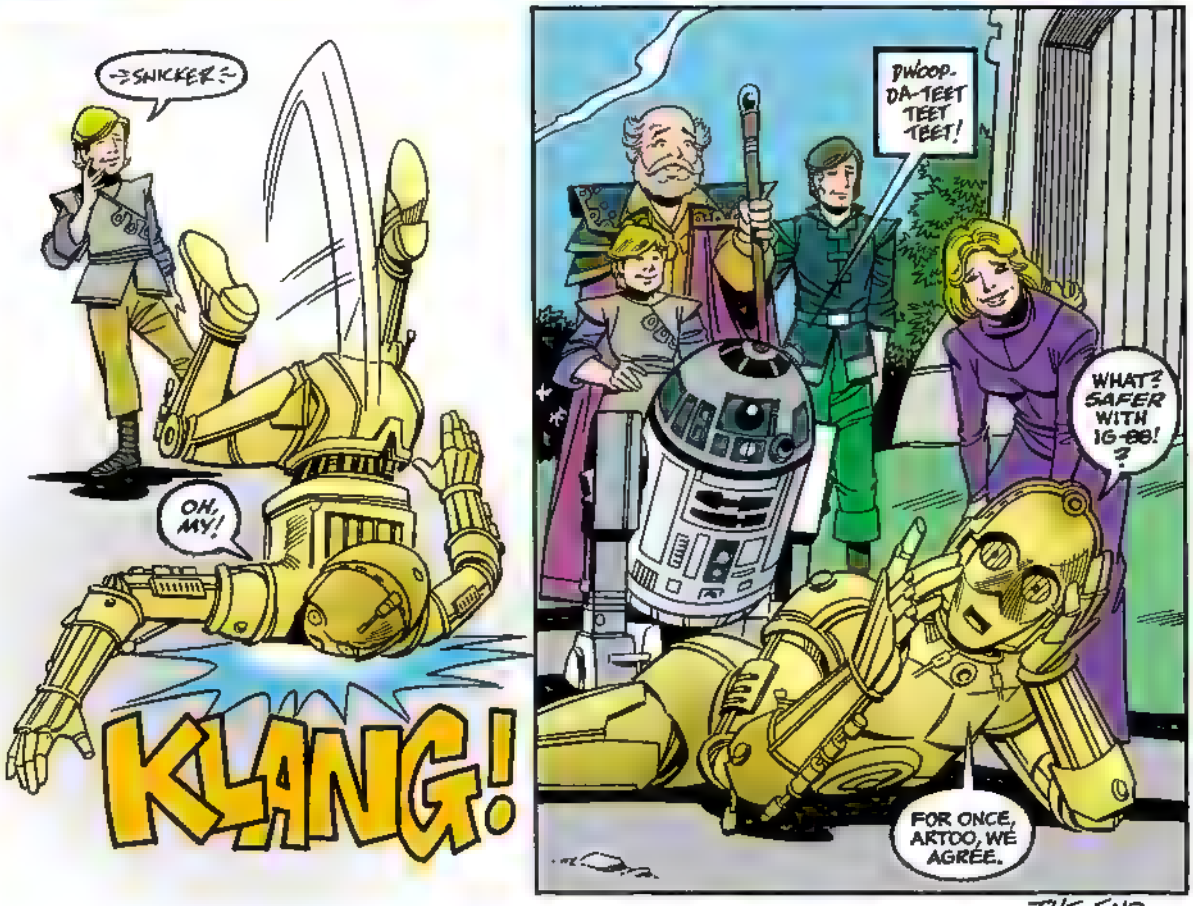

SOMETHING LANDED IN THE LAKE. IT LOOKS LIKE A LIFEPOD...
BREEP?
IT'S HEADING FOR US!
MAYBE WE SHOULD STEP BACK A LITTLE...?
C'MON, MOTHER!


AH-HAH! IT APPEARS WE HAVE GUESTS!
TWOO-DEET!
LET GO OF ME, ARTOO!
THIS IS MOST EMBARRASSING!


ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF-- I AM SEE-THREEPIO, A PROTOCOL DROID, AND EXPERT AT HUMAN-CYBORG RELATIONS. MY ASSOCIATE IS ARTOO-DEETOO, A VERY CAPABLE ASTROMECH DROID, IF I DO SAY SO!
I'M MEG PITAREEZE AND THIS IS MY HUSBAND, JARTH. WHO ARE YOUR OWNERS?
AN ASTROMECH UNIT! HOW FORTUNATE! YOU COULD BE QUITE HANDY AROUND THE FACTORY, LITTLE FELLOW! DON'T YOU AGREE, NAK?
I DON'T KNOW, GRANDPA... I THINK HE'S PRETTY STUPID LOOKING.
WHY--IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY BECOME... AVAILABLE!


YOU KNOW, JARTH AND I WERE JUST DISCUSSING GETTING SOME HELP FOR OUR BUSINESS. I THINK YOU'D FIT THE JOB NICELY!
IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A WELCOME CHANGE FROM OUR PREVIOUS SITUATION...
REALLY? WELL, WE CAN DISCUSS THAT AFTER YOU AND YOUR FRIEND HAVE HAD A HOT OIL BATH.


THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL! THIS DAY HAS IMPROVED IMMEASURABLY, HASN'T IT, ARTOO? AND AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH OF LATE...
...IT FEELS GOOD TO FINALLY BE ON FIRM GROUND!


=SNICKER=
OH, MY!
KLANG!
PWOOP-DA-TEET TEET TEET!
WHAT? SAFER WITH IG-88!?
FOR ONCE, ARTOO, WE AGREE.

THE END

klian
94

script by Dan Thorsland, Ryder Windham

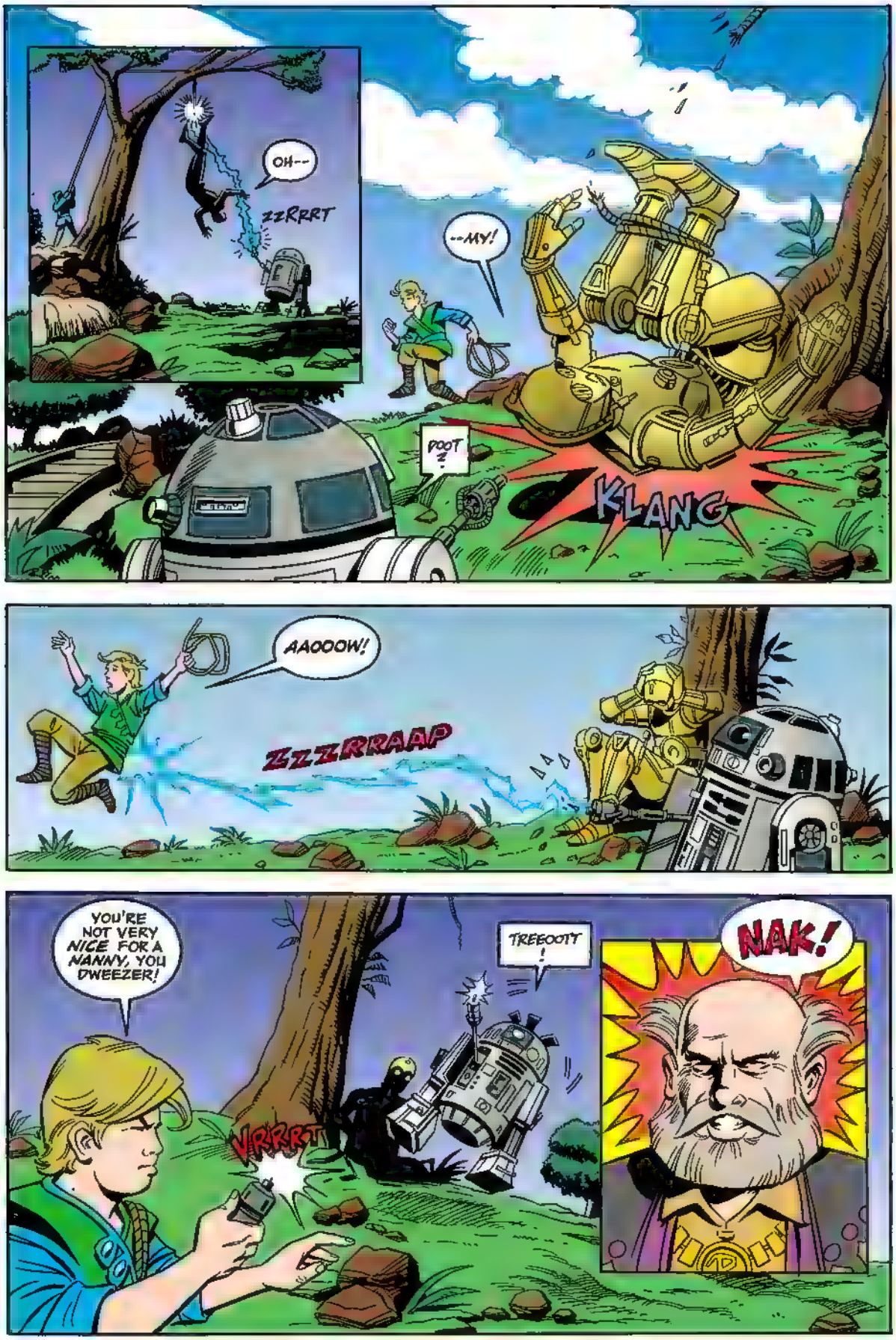
pencils by Bill Hughes, Ian Gibson

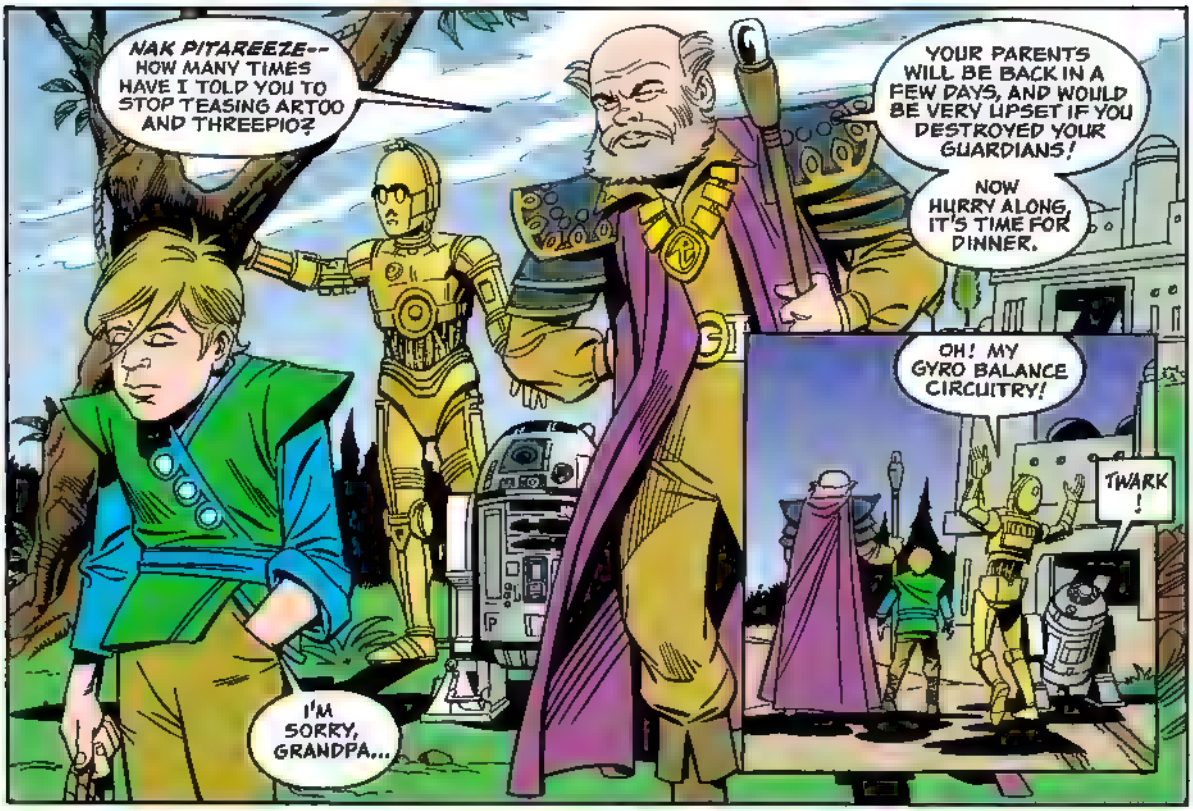
inks by Andy Mushynsky

colors by Pamela Rambo, Lea Hernandez

letters by Bill Spicer

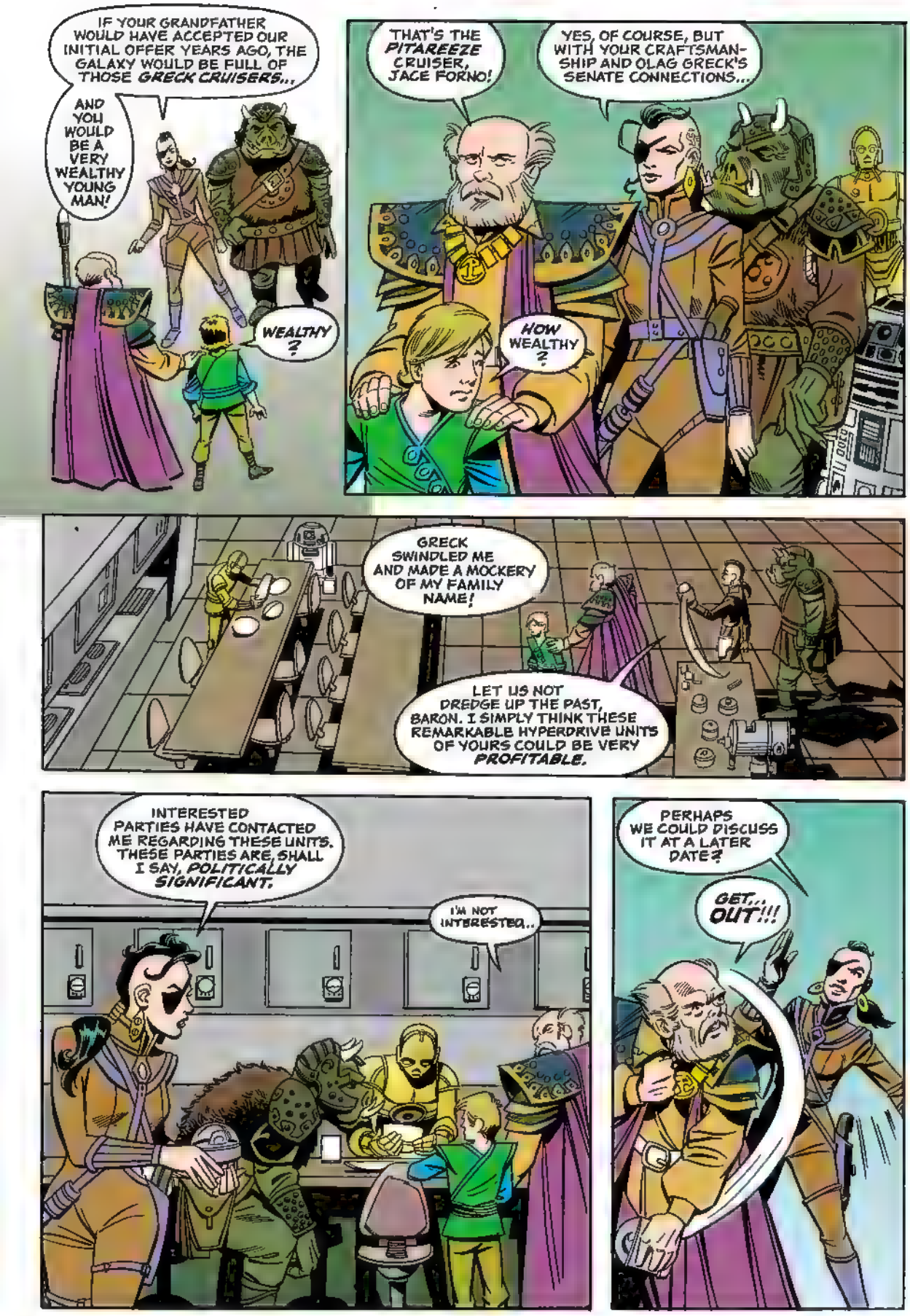
DEAR ME! THIS IS HORRIBLE! GET ME DOWN, ARTOO!
DO-WEEP!
THIS IS NOT FUNNY! MY SYSTEMS ARE STARTING TO OVERHEAT--SOMEONE HELP ME!
=SNICKER=

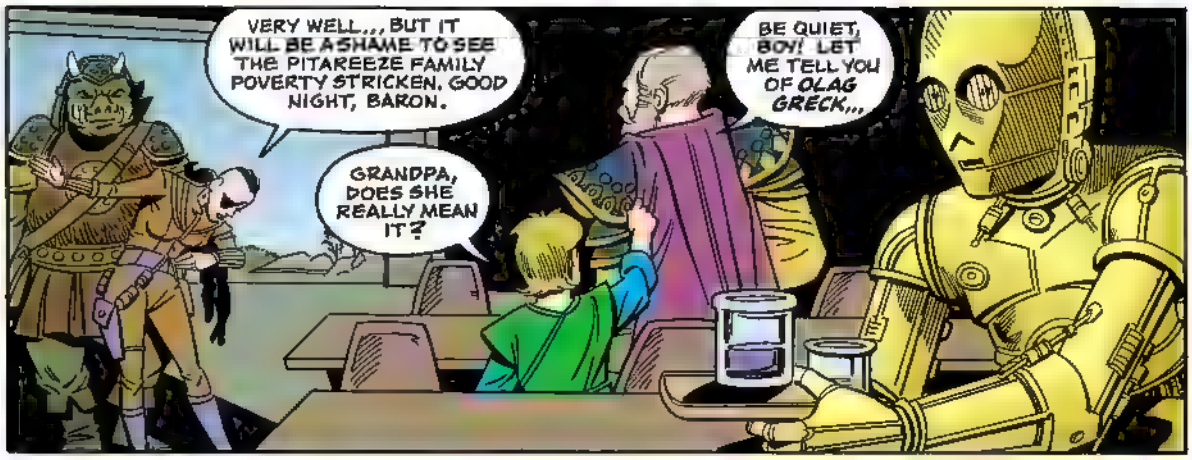

OH--
zzRRRT
--MY!
POOT
?
KLANG
AAOOOW!
ZZZRRAAP
YOU'RE NOT VERY NICE FOR A NANNY, YOU DWEEZER!
VRRRRT
TREEOOIT
!
NAK!

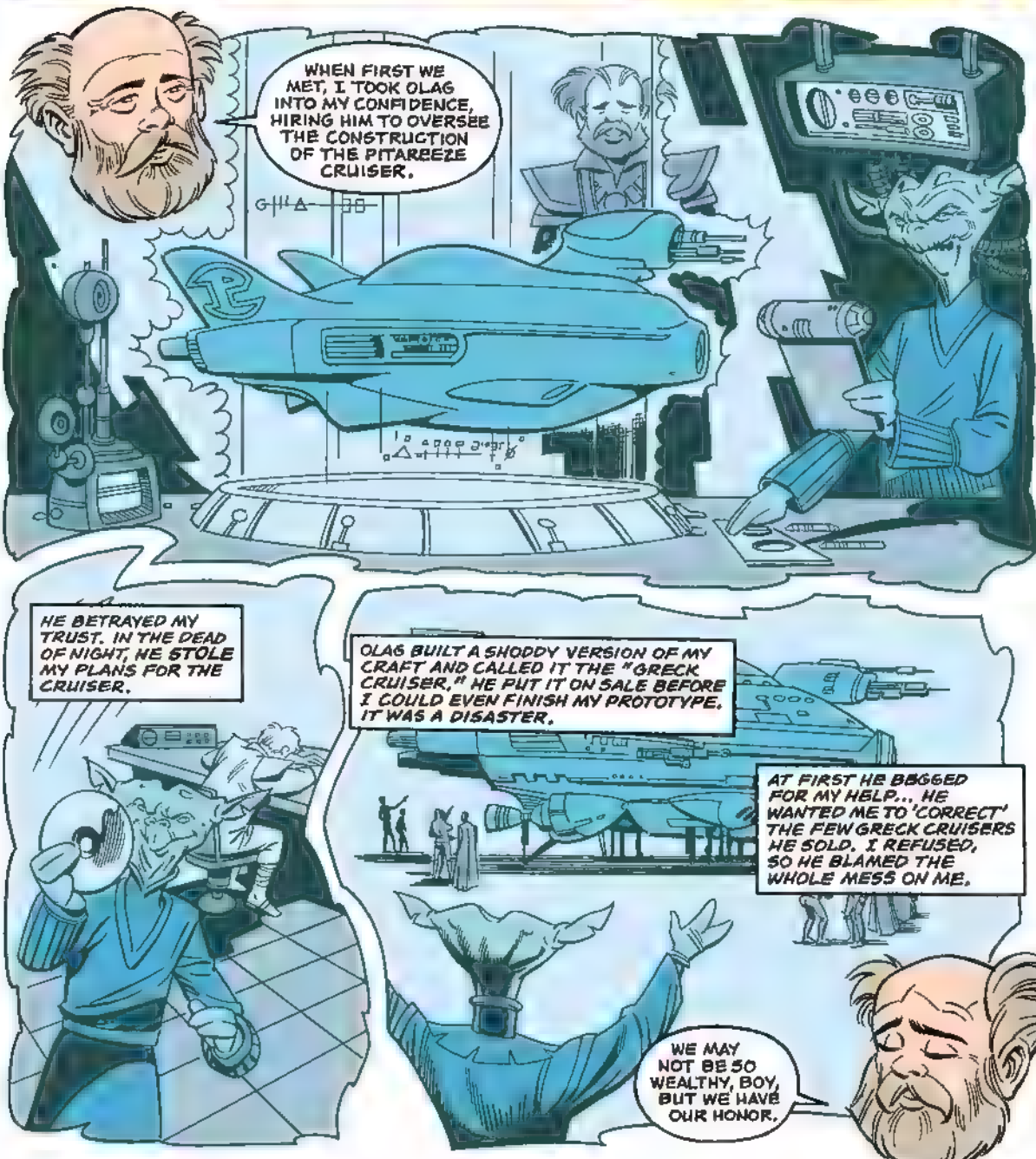

NAK PITAREEZE-- HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO STOP TEASING ARTOO AND THREEPIO?
I'M SORRY, GRANDPA...
YOUR PARENTS WILL BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS, AND WOULD BE VERY UPSET IF YOU DESTROYED YOUR GUARDIANS!
NOW HURRY ALONG, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.
OH! MY GYRO BALANCE CIRCUITRY!
TWARK!

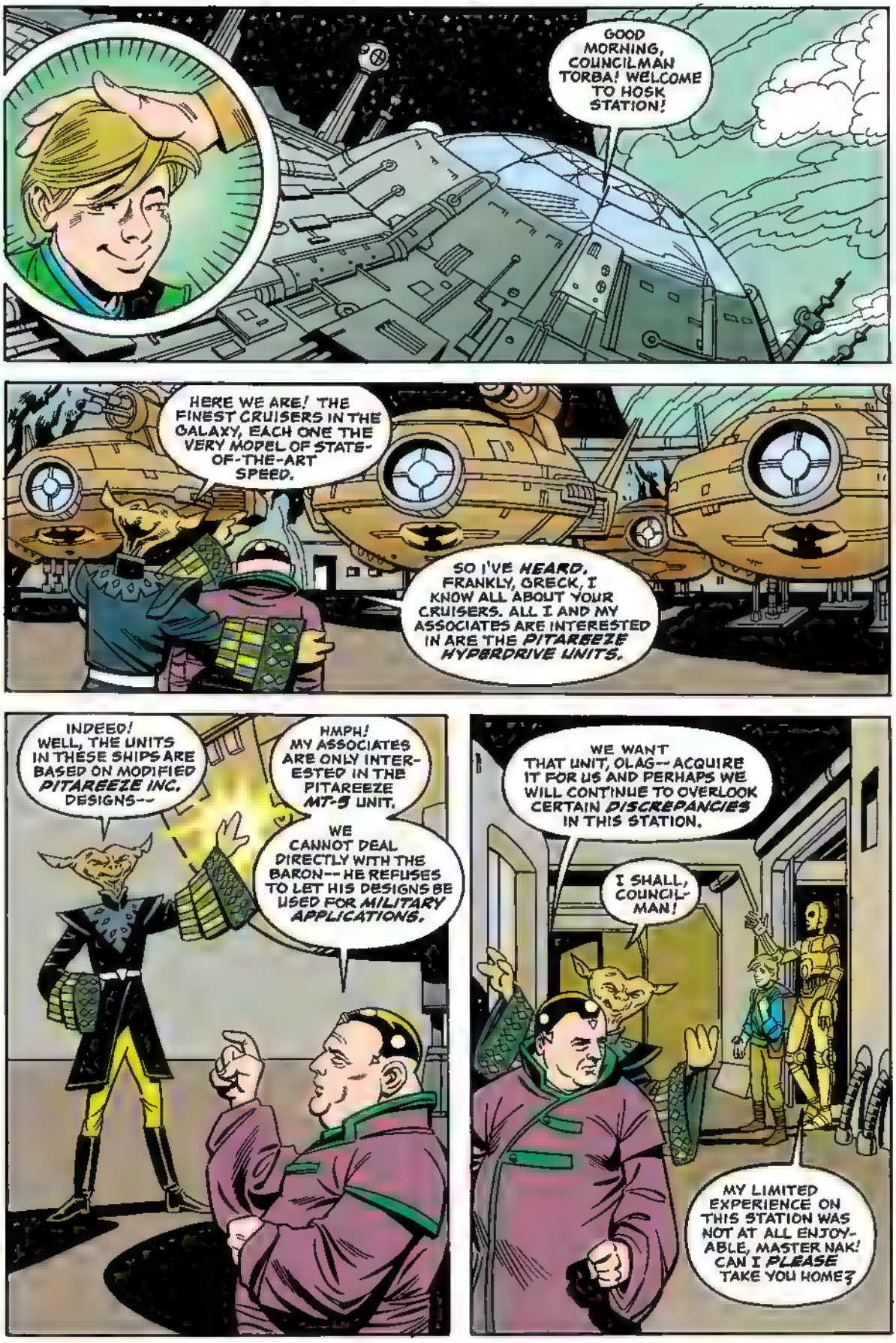
GOOD EVENING, BALTO. GIVE MY GREETINGS TO LILTA AND THE CHILDREN!
I SHALL, BARON!
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE SPACESHIPS ANYMORE, GRANDPA?

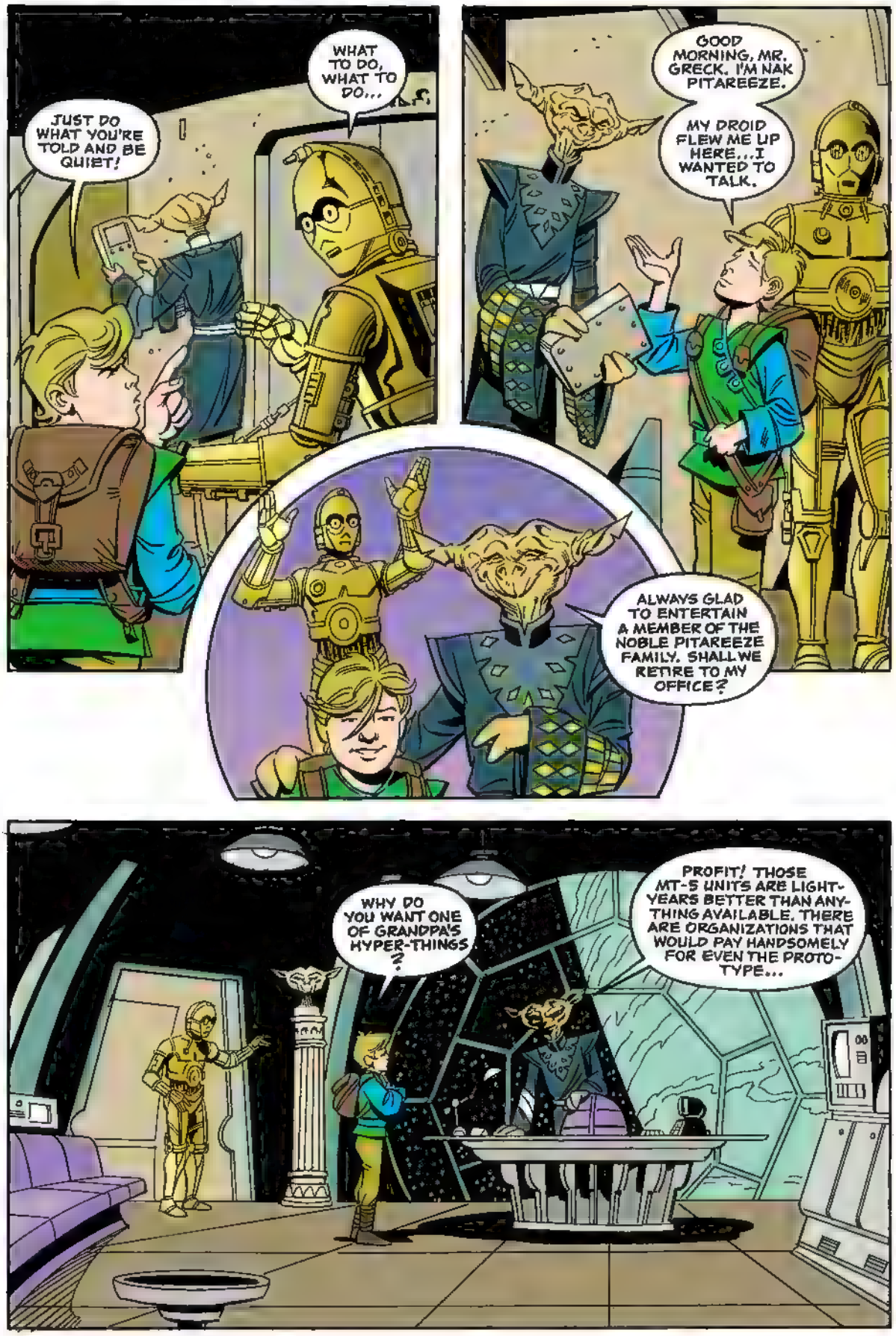
IT IS A LONG, SAD STORY, MY DEAR BOY...
I WISH YOU STILL DID--
SO DO I PITA-REEZE...


IF YOUR GRANDFATHER WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED OUR INITIAL OFFER YEARS AGO, THE GALAXY WOULD BE FULL OF THOSE GRECK CRUISERS...
AND YOU WOULD BE A VERY WEALTHY YOUNG MAN!
WEALTHY?
THAT'S THE PITAREEZE CRUISER, JACE FORNO!
YES, OF COURSE, BUT WITH YOUR CRAFTSMANSHIP AND OLAG GRECK'S SENATE CONNECTIONS...
HOW WEALTHY?
GRECK SWINDLED ME AND MADE A MOCKERY OF MY FAMILY NAME!
LET US NOT DREDGE UP THE PAST, BARON. I SIMPLY THINK THESE REMARKABLE HYPERDRIVE UNITS OF YOURS COULD BE VERY PROFITABLE.
INTERESTED PARTIES HAVE CONTACTED ME REGARDING THESE UNITS. THESE PARTIES ARE, SHALL I SAY, POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT.
I'M NOT INTERESTED...
PERHAPS WE COULD DISCUSS IT AT A LATER DATE?
GET... OUT!!!

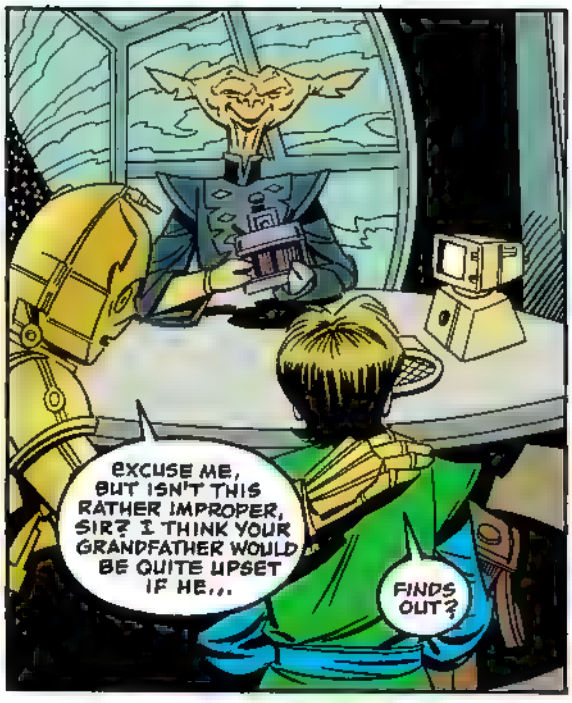

VERY WELL... BUT IT WILL BE A SHAME TO SEE THE PITAREEZE FAMILY POVERTY STRICKEN. GOOD NIGHT, BARON.
GRANDPA, DOES SHE REALLY MEAN IT?
BE QUIET, BOY! LET ME TELL YOU OF OLAG GRECK...

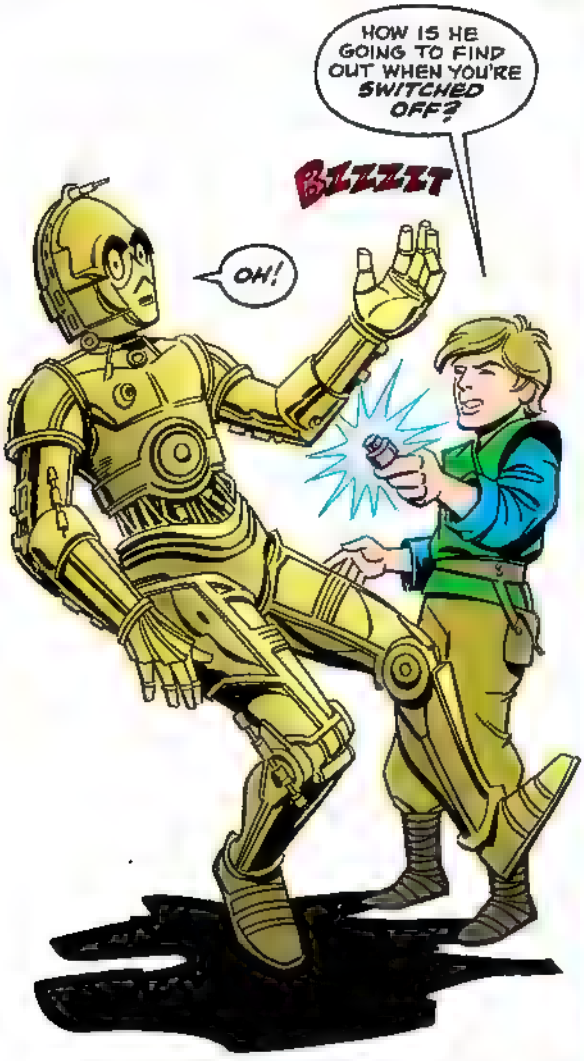

WHEN FIRST WE MET, I TOOK OLAG INTO MY CONFIDENCE, HIRING HIM TO OVERSEE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PITAREEZE CRUISER.
HE BETRAYED MY TRUST. IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE STOLE MY PLANS FOR THE CRUISER.
OLAG BUILT A SHODDY VERSION OF MY CRAFT AND CALLED IT THE "GRECK CRUISER." HE PUT IT ON SALE BEFORE I COULD EVEN FINISH MY PROTOTYPE. IT WAS A DISASTER.
AT FIRST HE BEGGED FOR MY HELP... HE WANTED ME TO 'CORRECT' THE FEW GRECK CRUISERS HE SOLD. I REFUSED, SO HE BLAMED THE WHOLE MESS ON ME.
WE MAY NOT BE SO WEALTHY, BOY, BUT WE HAVE OUR HONOR.


GOOD MORNING, COUNCILMAN TORBA! WELCOME TO HOSK STATION!
HERE WE ARE! THE FINEST CRUISERS IN THE GALAXY, EACH ONE THE VERY MODEL OF STATE-OF-THE-ART SPEED.
SO I'VE HEARD. FRANKLY, GRECK, I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR CRUISERS. ALL I AND MY ASSOCIATES ARE INTERESTED IN ARE THE PITAREEZE HYPERDRIVE UNITS.
INDEED! WELL, THE UNITS IN THESE SHIPS ARE BASED ON MODIFIED PITAREEZE INC. DESIGNS--
HMPH! MY ASSOCIATES ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE PITAREEZE MT-5 UNIT.
WE CANNOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE BARON--HE REFUSES TO LET HIS DESIGNS BE USED FOR MILITARY APPLICATIONS.
WE WANT THAT UNIT, OLAG--ACQUIRE IT FOR US AND PERHAPS WE WILL CONTINUE TO OVERLOOK CERTAIN DISCREPANCIES IN THIS STATION.
I SHALL, COUNCILMAN!
MY LIMITED EXPERIENCE ON THIS STATION WAS NOT AT ALL ENJOYABLE, MASTER NAK! CAN I PLEASE TAKE YOU HOME?


JUST DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD AND BE QUIET!
WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO...
GOOD MORNING, MR. GRECK. I'M NAK PITAREEZE.
MY DROID FLEW ME UP HERE...I WANTED TO TALK.
ALWAYS GLAD TO ENTERTAIN A MEMBER OF THE NOBLE PITAREEZE FAMILY. SHALL WE RETIRE TO MY OFFICE?
WHY DO YOU WANT ONE OF GRANDPA'S HYPER-THINGS?
PROFIT! THOSE MT-5 UNITS ARE LIGHT-YEARS BETTER THAN ANY-THING AVAILABLE. THERE ARE ORGANIZATIONS THAT WOULD PAY HANDSOMELY FOR EVEN THE PROTO-TYPE...

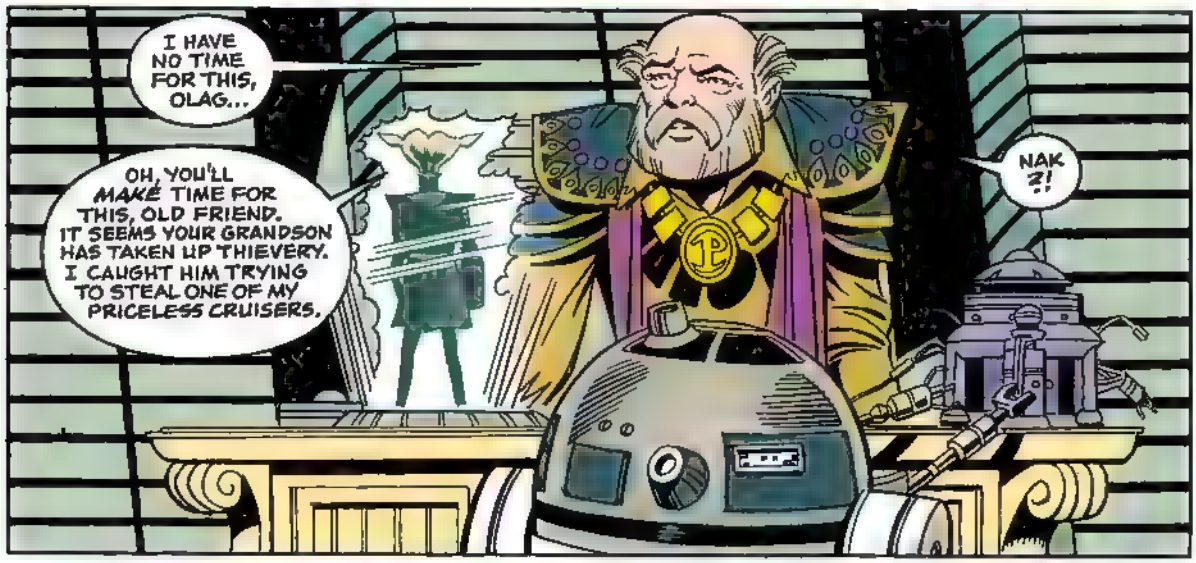
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?
I SNUCK IT OUT OF MY GRANDPA'S OFFICE LAST NIGHT.
AAAAH!

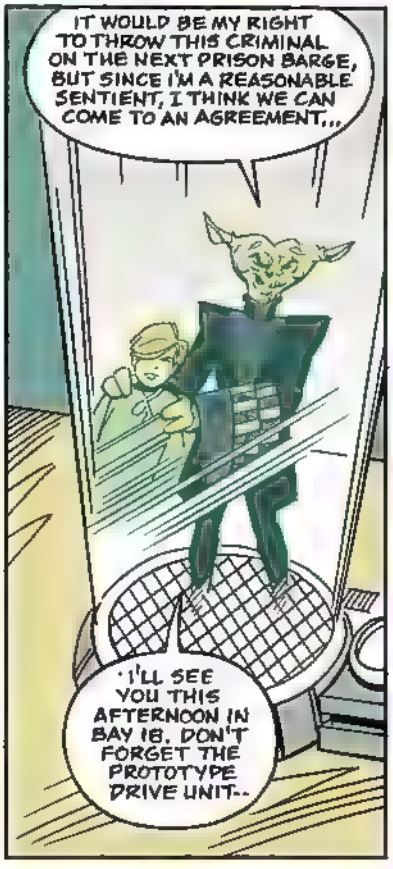

EXCUSE ME, BUT ISN'T THIS RATHER IMPROPER, SIR? I THINK YOUR GRANDFATHER WOULD BE QUITE UPSET IF HE...
FINDS OUT?


HOW IS HE GOING TO FIND OUT WHEN YOU'RE SWITCHED OFF?
BZZZIT
OH!

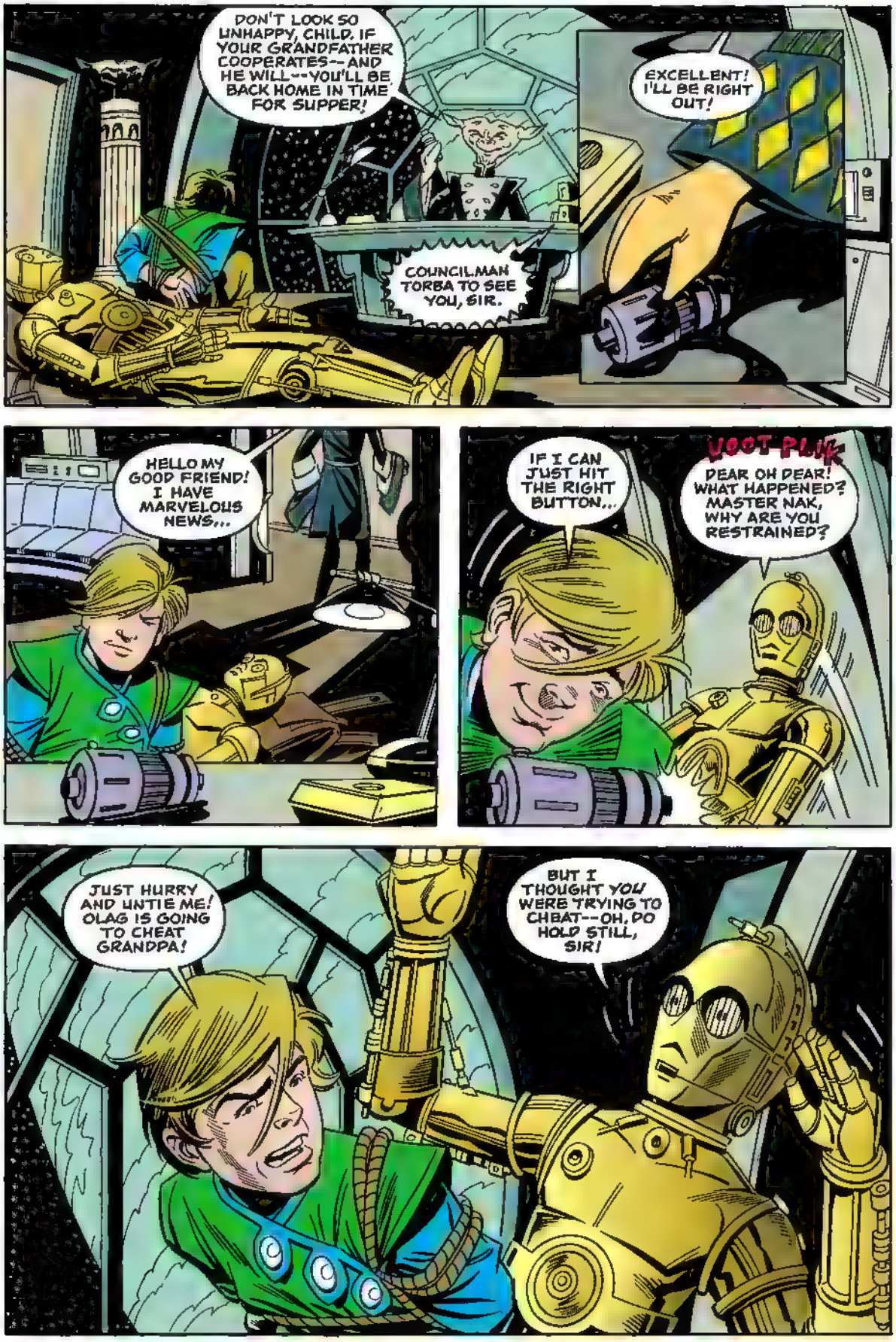
THIS ISN'T THE DRIVE UNIT, YOU FOOL! THIS IS A HYDRO-COMPRESSOR! NO MORE GAMES-- I WANT THAT PROTOTYPE!
CCRUNNCH
AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO GET IT!

BARON PITAFREEZE? YOU HAVE A TRANS-MISSION FROM HOSK.
HOSK?! VERY WELL, SEND IT THROUGH.

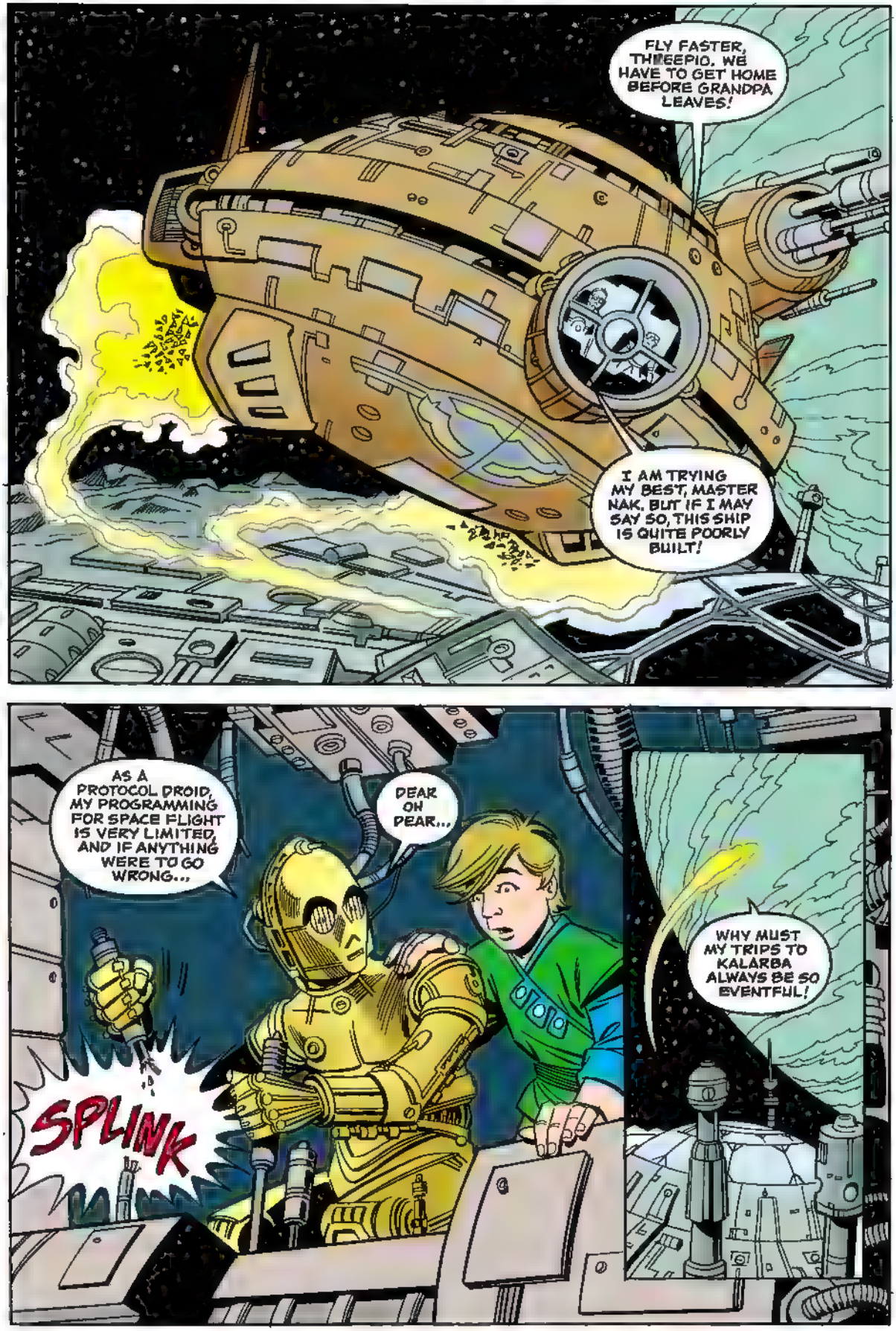

I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS, OLAG...
OH, YOU'LL *MAKE* TIME FOR THIS, OLD FRIEND. IT SEEMS YOUR GRANDSON HAS TAKEN UP THIEVERY. I CAUGHT HIM TRYING TO STEAL ONE OF MY PRICELESS CRUISERS.
NAK?!

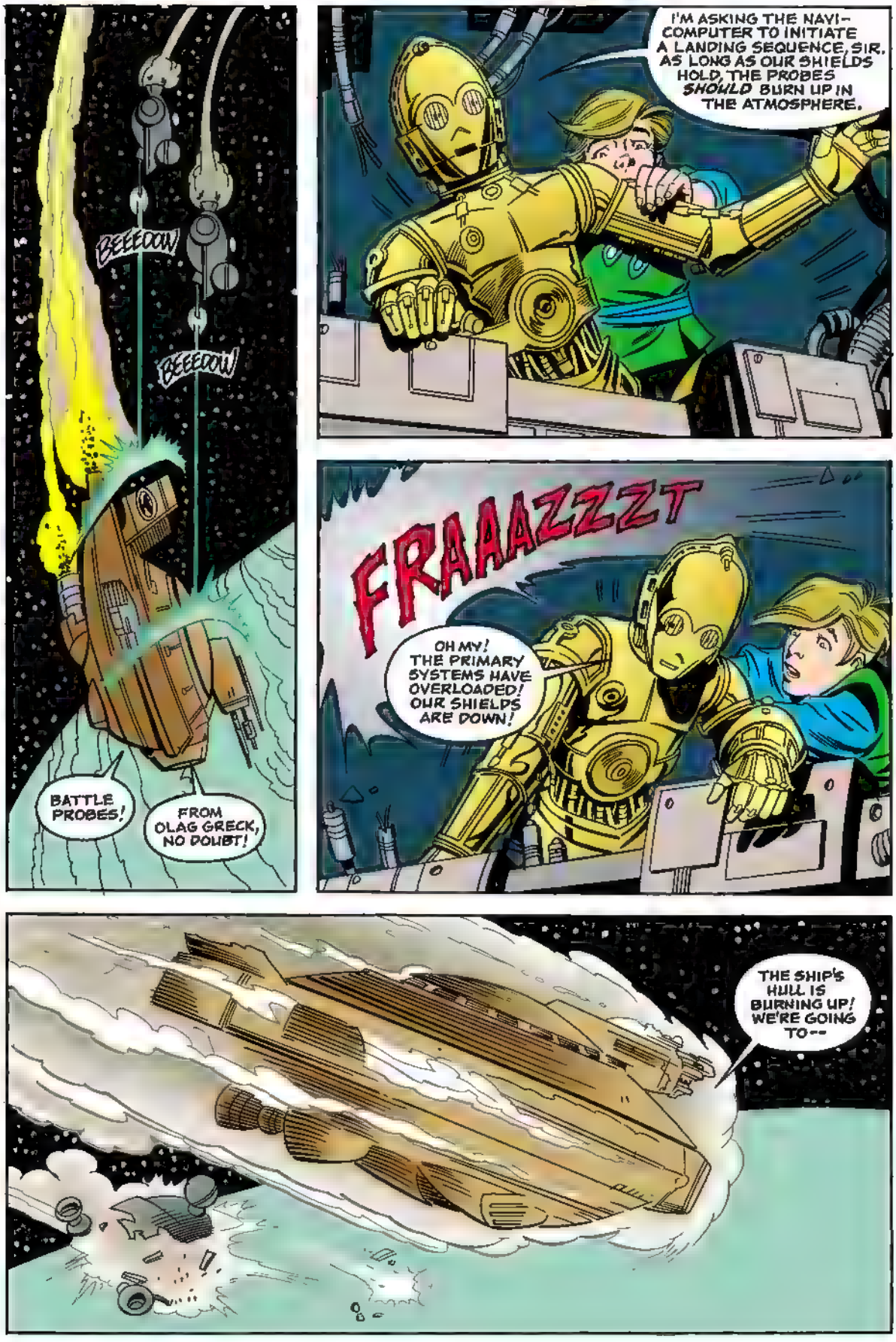

IT WOULD BE MY RIGHT TO THROW THIS CRIMINAL ON THE NEXT PRISON BARGE, BUT SINCE I'M A REASONABLE SENTIENT, I THINK WE CAN COME TO AN AGREEMENT...
I'LL SEE YOU THIS AFTERNOON IN BAY 18. DON'T FORGET THE PROTOTYPE DRIVE UNIT--

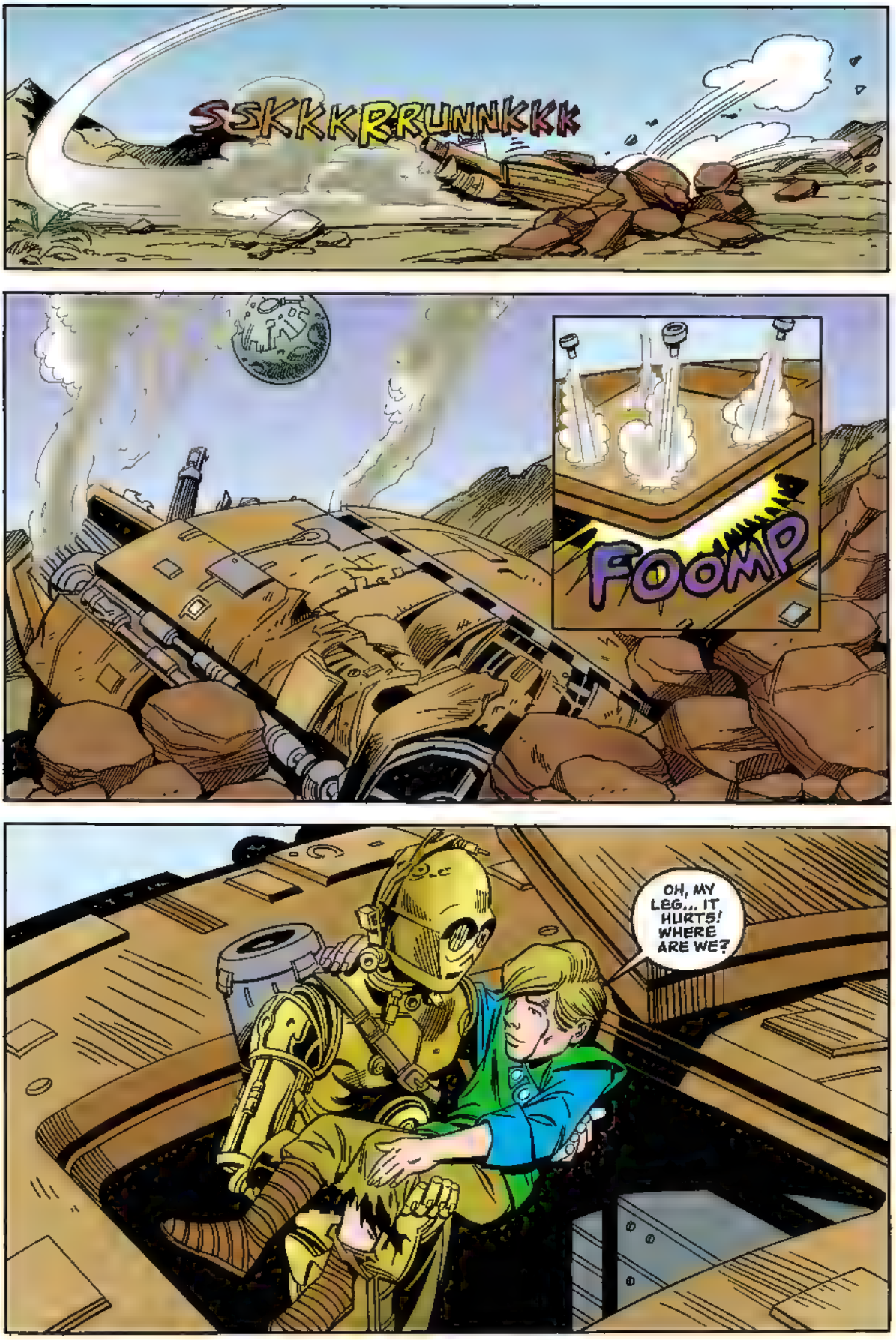
WHAT SHALL I DO, ARTOO? WITHOUT THIS NEW DRIVE UNIT, MY BUSINESS WILL BE *RUINED*. I'VE LOST...I'VE LOST IT ALL.
TWEET-DOOO...

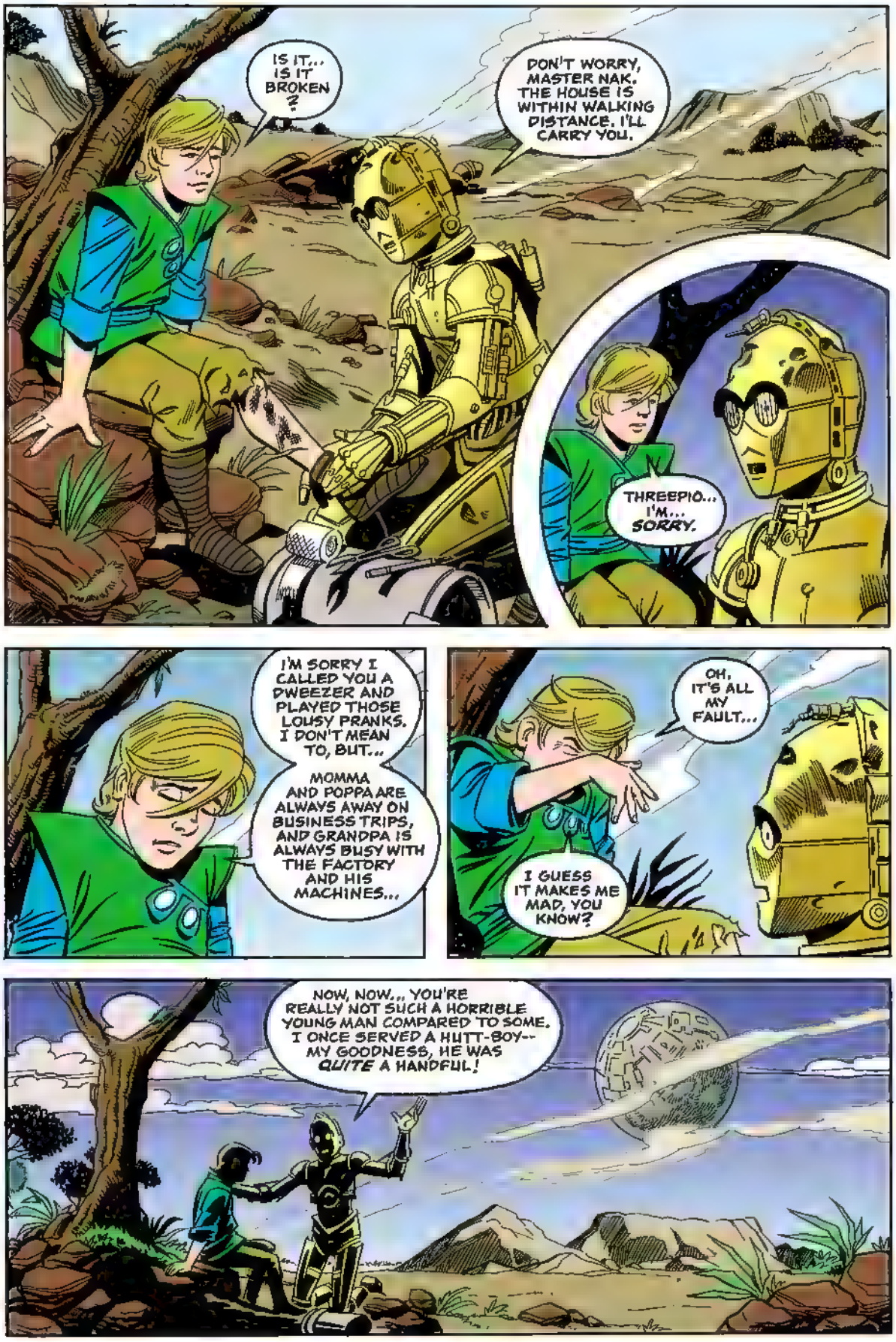

DON'T LOOK SO UNHAPPY, CHILD. IF YOUR GRANDFATHER COOPERATES--AND HE WILL--YOU'LL BE BACK HOME IN TIME FOR SUPPER!
EXCELLENT! I'LL BE RIGHT OUT!
COUNCILMAN TORBA TO SEE YOU, SIR.
HELLO MY GOOD FRIEND! I HAVE MARVELOUS NEWS...
IF I CAN JUST HIT THE RIGHT BUTTON...
UOOT-PLIK
DEAR OH DEAR! WHAT HAPPENED? MASTER NAK, WHY ARE YOU RESTRAINED?
JUST HURRY AND UNTIE ME! OLAG IS GOING TO CHEAT GRANDPA!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO CHEAT--OH, DO HOLD STILL, SIR!

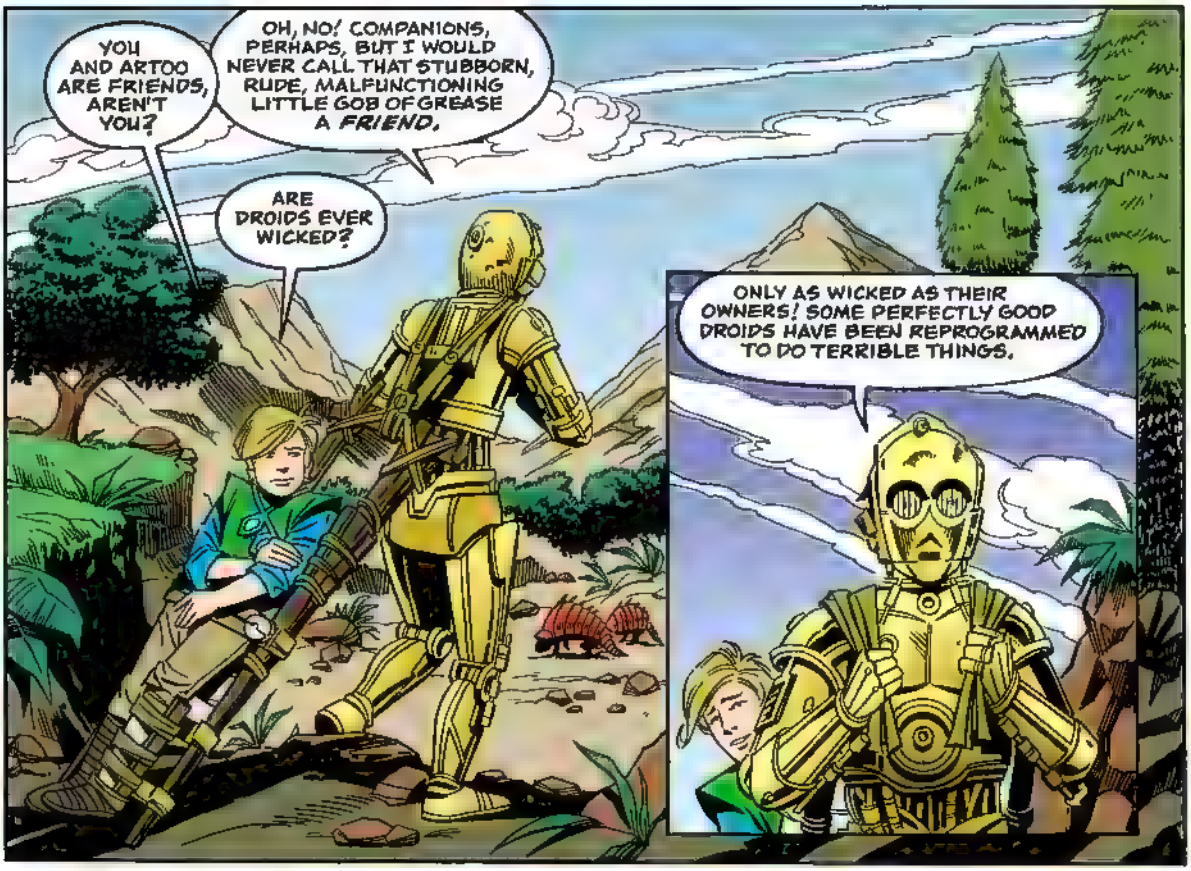
PLEASE WAIT FOR ME, SIR!
HURRY, THREEPIO. WE HAVE TO FLY HOME AND STOP GRANDPA!
CHUT HOO?
MOG GREE TUK SHEE DA
HE SAYS THAT MASTER OLAG FORBIDS ENTRANCE TO THIS BAY. WE CAN'T GET TO THE SHIP!
UH-OH
THEN WE'LL TAKE ANOTHER SHIP! RUN!
OH, DEAR--
TOSK MO DA!
SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE, MASTER OLAG DOES NOT TAKE KINDLY TO HAVING HIS PROPERTY STOLEN!
BEEEOWW
COME ON!

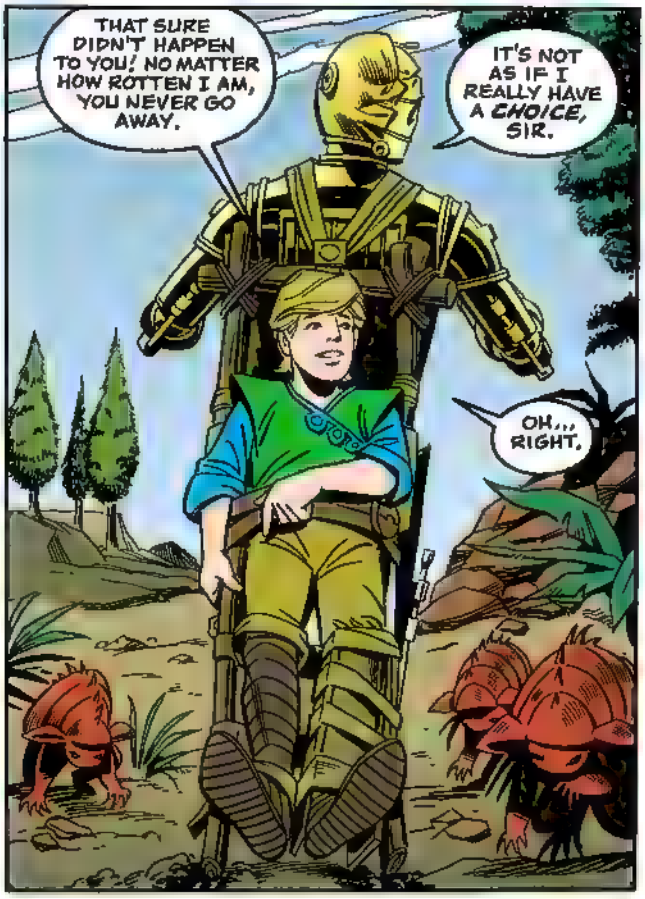

FLY FASTER, THREEPIO. WE HAVE TO GET HOME BEFORE GRANDPA LEAVES!
I AM TRYING MY BEST, MASTER NAK. BUT IF I MAY SAY SO, THIS SHIP IS QUITE POORLY BUILT!
AS A PROTOCOL DROID, MY PROGRAMMING FOR SPACE FLIGHT IS VERY LIMITED, AND IF ANYTHING WERE TO GO WRONG...
DEAR OH DEAR...
SPLINK
WHY MUST MY TRIPS TO KALARBA ALWAYS BE SO EVENTFUL!


BEEEOOW!
BEEEOOW!
BATTLE PROBES!
FROM OLAG GRECK, NO DOUBT!
I'M ASKING THE NAVI-COMPUTER TO INITIATE A LANDING SEQUENCE, SIR. AS LONG AS OUR SHIELDS HOLD, THE PROBES *SHOULD* BURN UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE.
FRAAAZZZT
OH MY! THE PRIMARY SYSTEMS HAVE OVERLOADED! OUR SHIELDS ARE DOWN!
THE SHIP'S HULL IS BURNING UP! WE'RE GOING TO--


SSKKKRRUNNKKK
FOOMP
OH, MY LEG... IT HURTS! WHERE ARE WE?

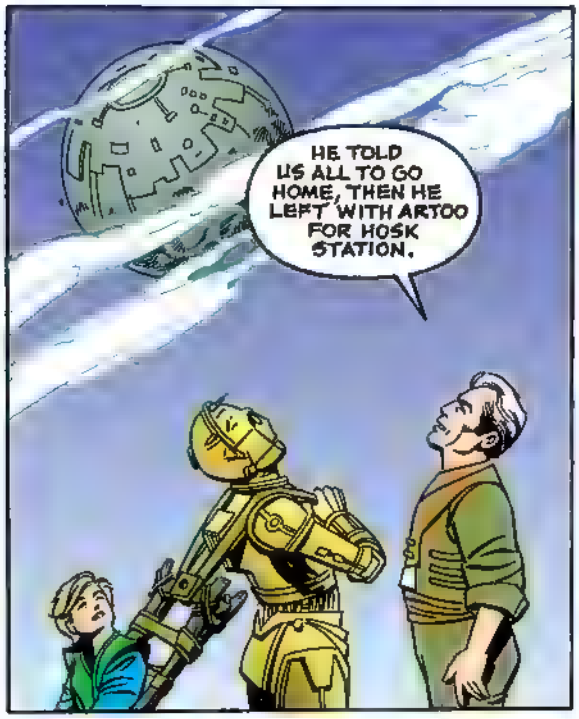

IS IT... IS IT BROKEN?
DON'T WORRY, MASTER NAK. THE HOUSE IS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE. I'LL CARRY YOU.
THREEPIO... I'M... SORRY.
I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU A DWEEZER AND PLAYED THOSE LOUSY PRANKS. I DON'T MEAN TO, BUT...
MOMMA AND POPPA ARE ALWAYS AWAY ON BUSINESS TRIPS, AND GRANDPA IS ALWAYS BUSY WITH THE FACTORY AND HIS MACHINES...
OH, IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
I GUESS IT MAKES ME MAD, YOU KNOW?
NOW, NOW... YOU'RE REALLY NOT SUCH A HORRIBLE YOUNG MAN COMPARED TO SOME. I ONCE SERVED A HUTT-BOY-- MY GOODNESS, HE WAS *QUITE* A HANDFUL!


YOU AND ARTOO ARE FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?
OH, NO! COMPANIONS, PERHAPS, BUT I WOULD NEVER CALL THAT STUBBORN, RUDE, MALFUNCTIONING LITTLE GOB OF GREASE A FRIEND.
ARE DROIDS EVER WICKED?
ONLY AS WICKED AS THEIR OWNERS! SOME PERFECTLY GOOD DROIDS HAVE BEEN REPROGRAMMED TO DO TERRIBLE THINGS.

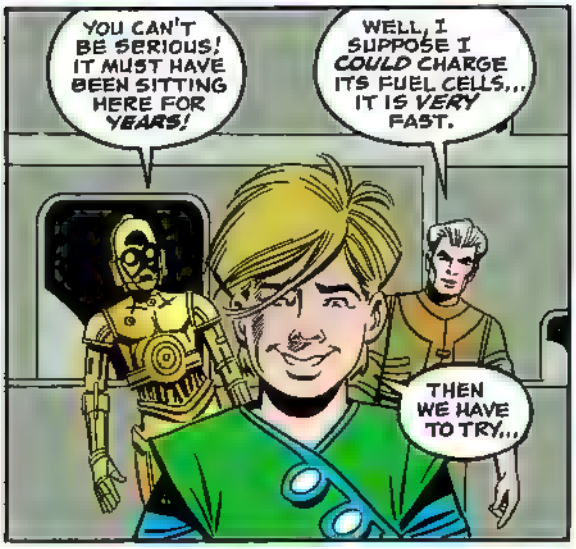

THAT SURE DIDN'T HAPPEN TO YOU! NO MATTER HOW ROTTEN I AM, YOU NEVER GO AWAY.
IT'S NOT AS IF I REALLY HAVE A CHOICE, SIR.
OH,,, RIGHT.

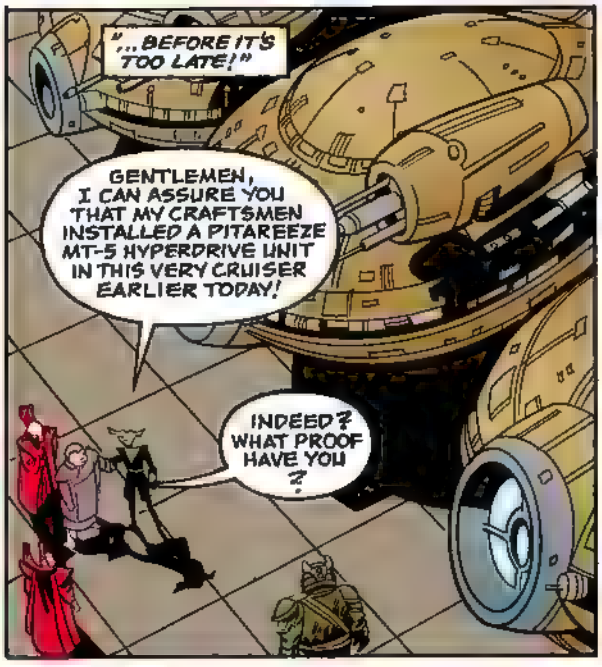
WE'RE HOME, SIR! NOW, WHERE IS THAT ARTOO?
HEY! WHERE ARE ALL THE WORKERS?

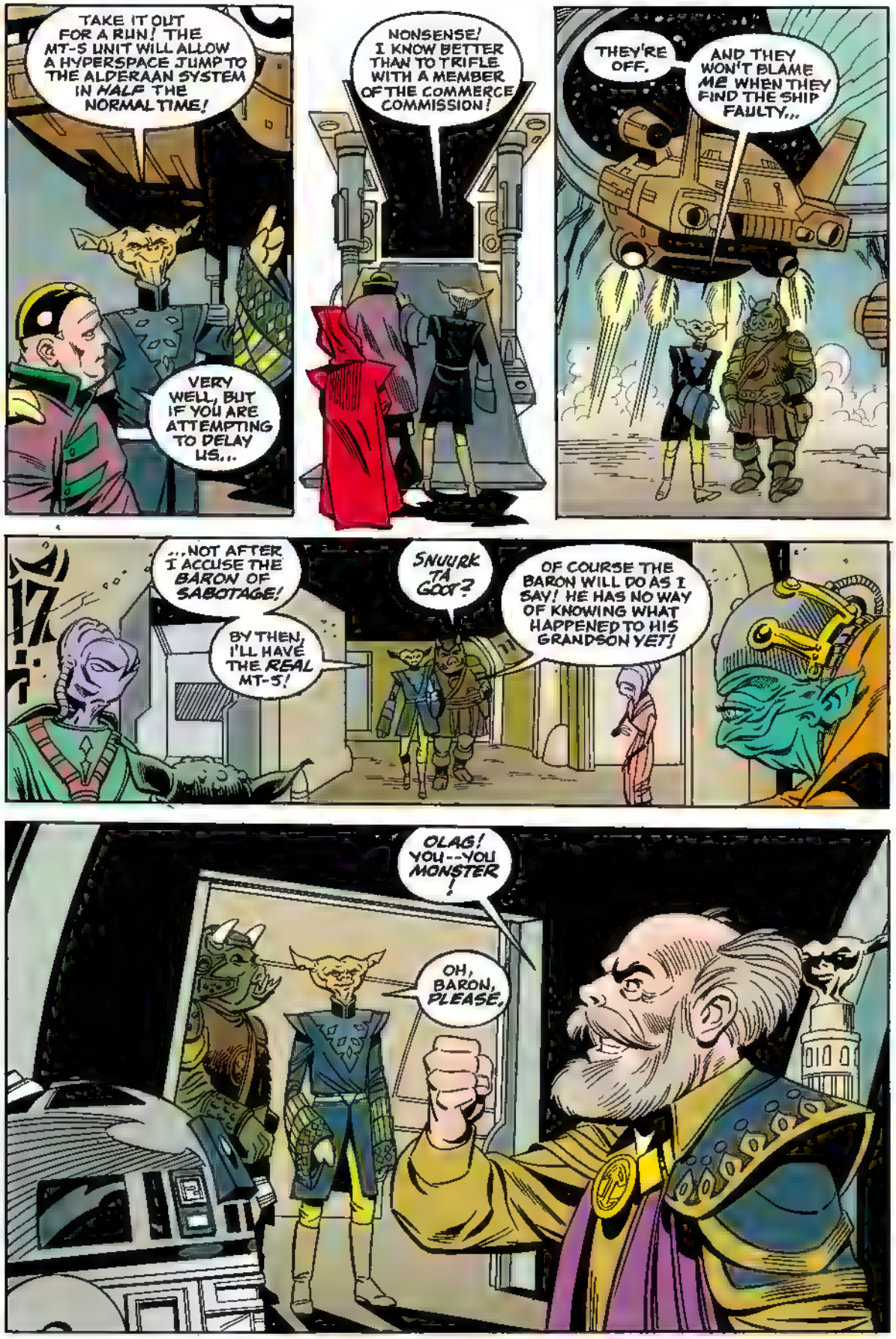
BALTO! WHERE HAS EVERYBODY--?
NAK! THREEPIO! THANK THE STARS YOU'RE SAFE! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!
BARON PITAREEZE CLOSED THE FACTORY! HE CAME OUT OF HIS OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON IN A TERRIBLE STATE.


HE TOLD US ALL TO GO HOME, THEN HE LEFT WITH ARTOO FOR HOSK STATION.

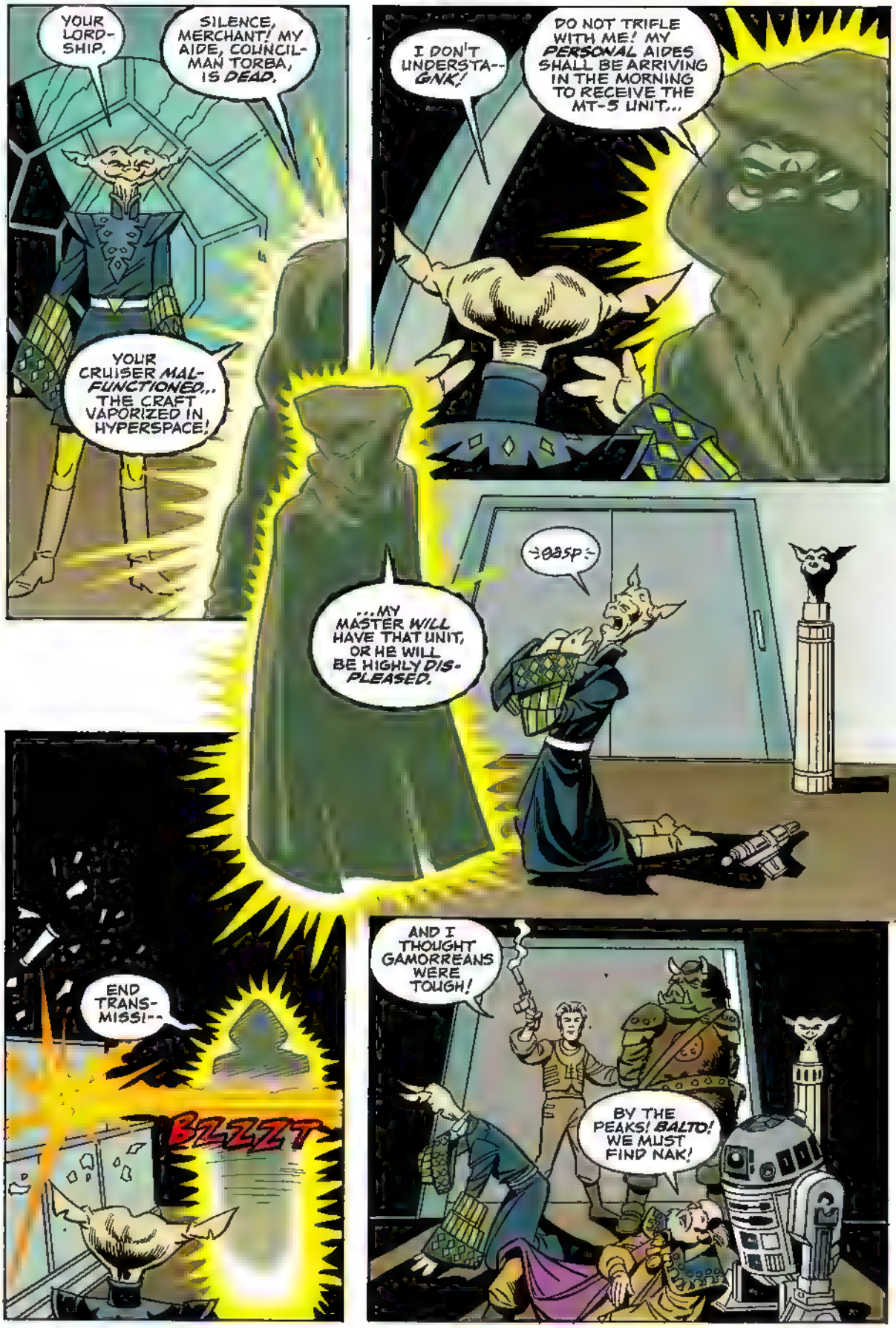
HE LEFT ON THE LAST SHUTTLE TO HOSK... I COULDN'T FOLLOW HIM!
WHAT ABOUT THIS SHIP?

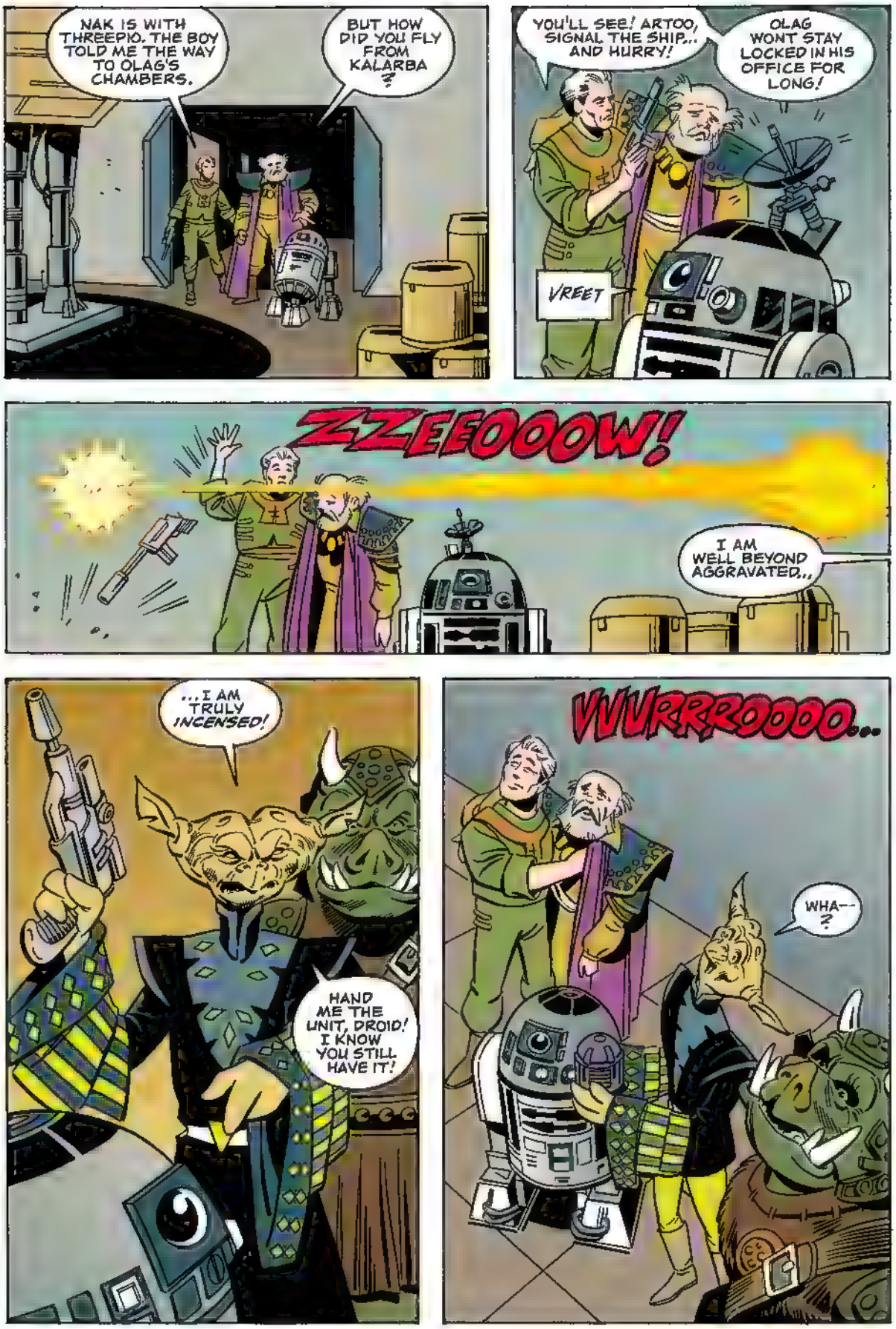

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! IT MUST HAVE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR YEARS!
WELL, I SUPPOSE I COULD CHARGE ITS FUEL CELLS... IT IS VERY FAST.
THEN WE HAVE TO TRY...


"...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"
GENTLEMEN, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY CRAFTSMEN INSTALLED A PITAREEZE MT-5 HYPERDRIVE UNIT IN THIS VERY CRUISER EARLIER TODAY!
INDEED? WHAT PROOF HAVE YOU?

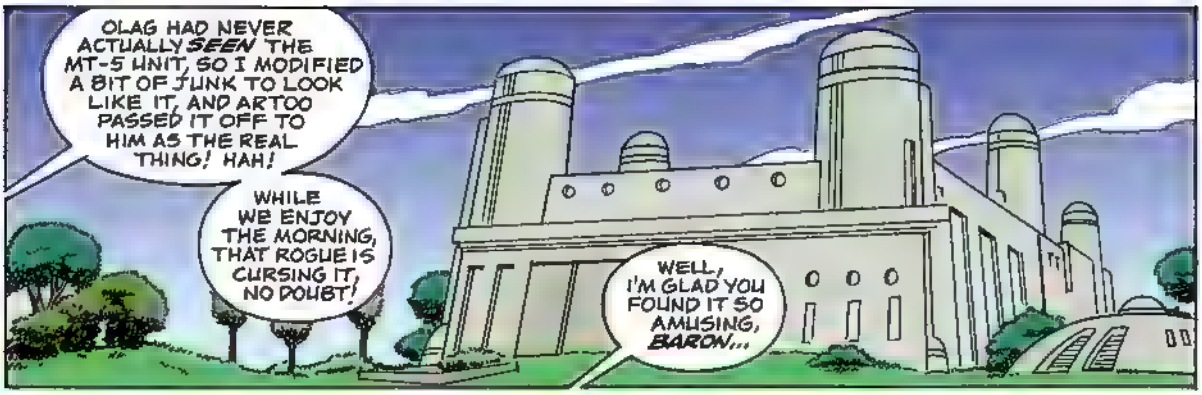

TAKE IT OUT FOR A RUN! THE MT-5 UNIT WILL ALLOW A HYPERSPACE JUMP TO THE ALDERAAN SYSTEM IN HALF THE NORMAL TIME!
VERY WELL, BUT IF YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO DELAY US...
NONSENSE! I KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRIFLE WITH A MEMBER OF THE COMMERCE COMMISSION!
THEY'RE OFF.
AND THEY WON'T BLAME ME WHEN THEY FIND THE SHIP FAULTY...
...NOT AFTER I ACCUSE THE BARON OF SABOTAGE!
BY THEN, I'LL HAVE THE REAL MT-5!
SNUURK TA GOOT?
OF COURSE THE BARON WILL DO AS I SAY! HE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS GRANDSON YET!
OLAG! YOU--YOU MONSTER!
OH, BARON, PLEASE.

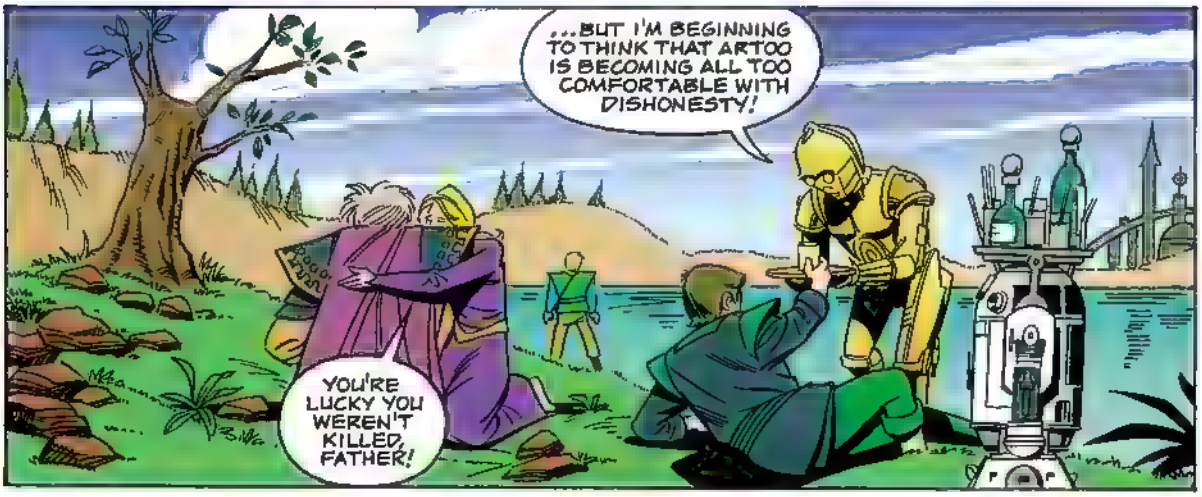
WHERE'S THE UNIT?
NEARBY! I WANT TO SEE MY GRANDSON--NOW!
YOU WON'T BE SEEING ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T HAND IT OVER!
YOU'RE INSANE!
TOOOWEET!
I'M NOT INSANE: I'M AGGRAVATED!
I WANT THAT UNIT!
ARTOO... GIVE IT TO HIM.
MR. OLAG, SIR! YOU HAVE AN INCOMING TRANSMISSION.
PATCH IT THROUGH...
KEEP QUIET, BARON, OR YOUR GRANDSON WILL DIE!

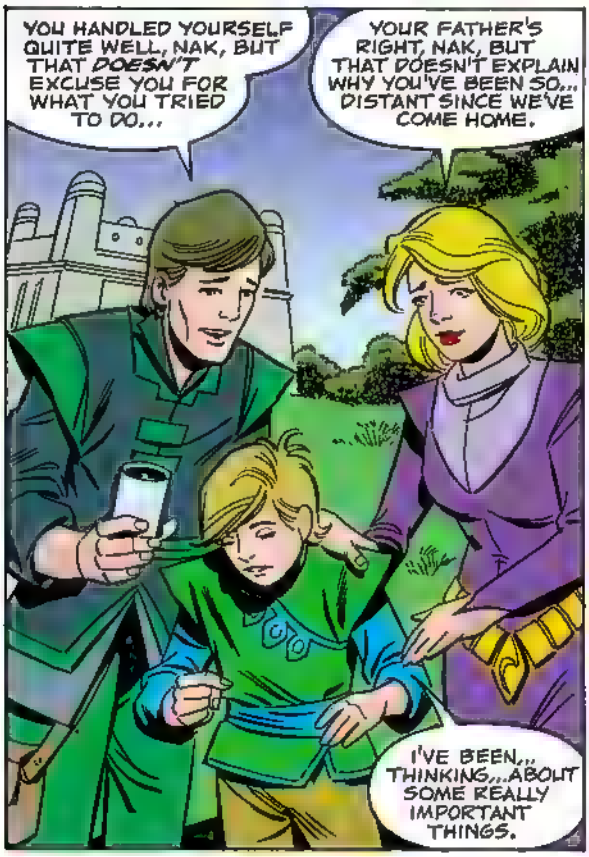

YOUR LORD-SHIP.
SILENCE, MERCHANT! MY AIDE, COUNCIL-MAN TORBA, IS DEAD.
YOUR CRUISER MAL-FUNCTIONED... THE CRAFT VAPORIZED IN HYPERSPACE!
I DON'T UNDERSTA--GNK!
DO NOT TRIFLE WITH ME! MY PERSONAL AIDES SHALL BE ARRIVING IN THE MORNING TO RECEIVE THE MT-5 UNIT...
...MY MASTER WILL HAVE THAT UNIT, OR HE WILL BE HIGHLY DIS-PLEASED.
-BESP-
END TRANS-MISSI--
BLZZT
AND I THOUGHT GAMORREANS WERE TOUGH!
BY THE PEAKS! BALTO! WE MUST FIND NAK!

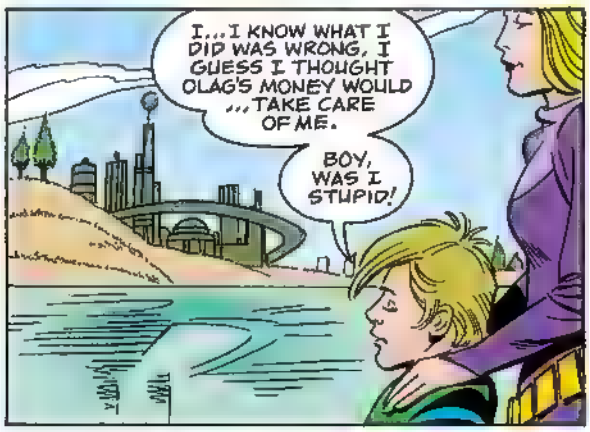

NAK IS WITH THREEPIO. THE BOY TOLD ME THE WAY TO OLAG'S CHAMBERS.
BUT HOW DID YOU FLY FROM KALARBA ?
YOU'LL SEE! ARTOO, SIGNAL THE SHIP... AND HURRY!
OLAG WON'T STAY LOCKED IN HIS OFFICE FOR LONG!
VREET
ZZEEOOOW!
I AM WELL BEYOND AGGRAVATED...
...I AM TRULY INCENSED!
HAND ME THE UNIT, DROID! I KNOW YOU STILL HAVE IT!
VVVRRROOOO...
WHA--- ?

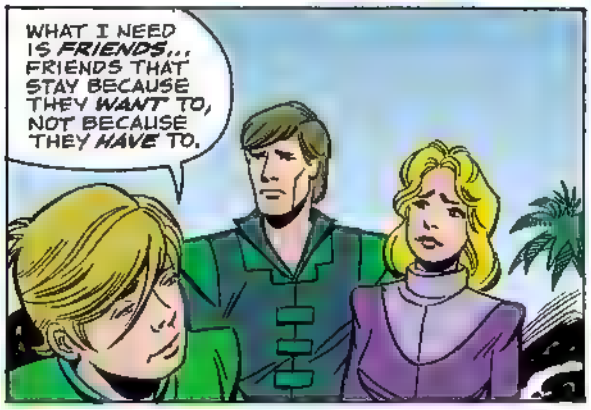
WWOOO
OOSH!
FORGET THEM, YOU OAF! WE HAVE THE UNIT-- LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
GOOD TIMING, ARTOO!
GRAND-PA!
COME HERE, LAD!
YOUR LEG! YOU'RE HURT!
I'M OKAY, THANKS TO THREEPIO. I... I'M SORRY ABOUT THE MT-5 UNIT.
NOT AS SORRY AS OLAG...
"BUT WE'D BETTER NOT WAIT TO SEE HOW SORRY HE'LL BE!"
AT LAST... THE IMPERIAL NAVY WILL PAY A FORTUNE FOR--
TEK
SPRRT!
A FOOD HYDRATOR ?!
I'M DEAD!

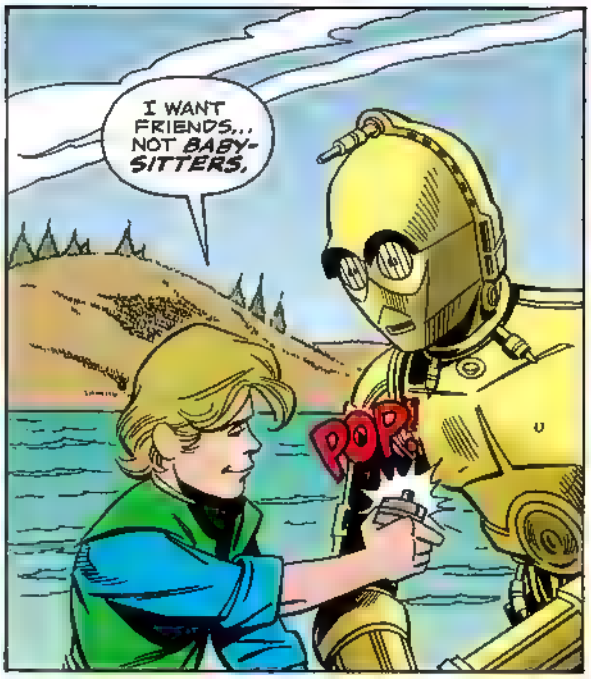

OLAG HAD NEVER ACTUALLY *SEEN* THE MT-5 UNIT, SO I MODIFIED A BIT OF JUNK TO LOOK LIKE IT, AND ARTOO PASSED IT OFF TO HIM AS THE REAL THING! HAH!
WHILE WE ENJOY THE MORNING, THAT ROGUE IS CURSING IT, NO DOUBT!
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU FOUND IT SO AMUSING, *BARON*...

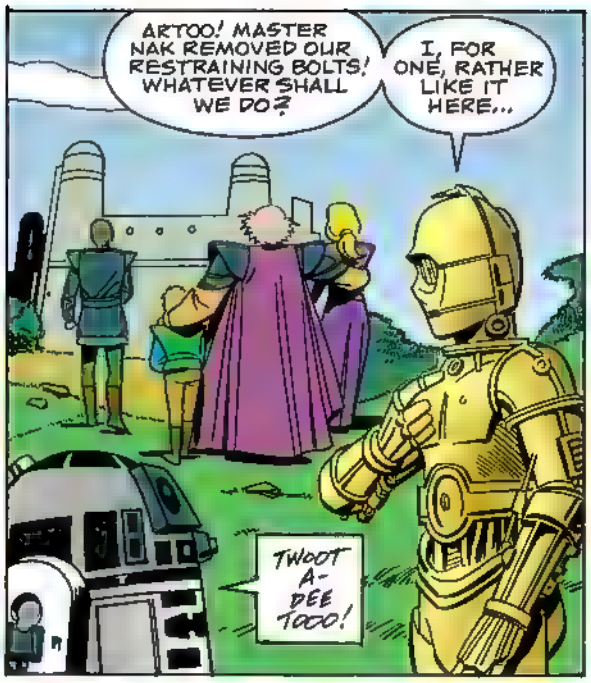

...BUT I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT ARTOO IS BECOMING ALL TOO COMFORTABLE WITH DISHONESTY!
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU WEREN'T KILLED, FATHER!

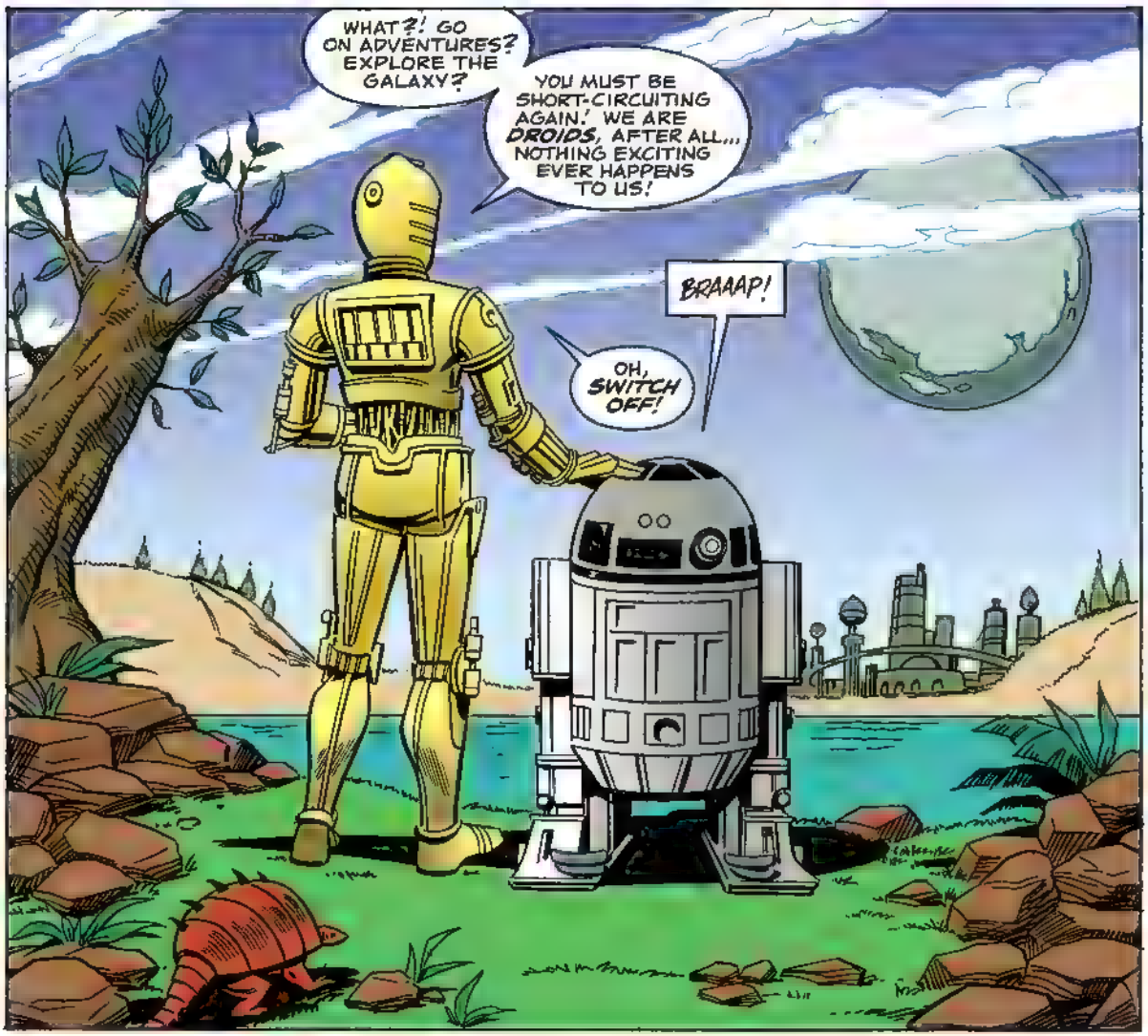

YOU HANDLED YOURSELF QUITE WELL, NAK, BUT THAT *DOESN'T* EXCUSE YOU FOR WHAT YOU TRIED TO DO...
YOUR FATHER'S RIGHT, NAK, BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU'VE BEEN SO... DISTANT SINCE WE'VE COME HOME.
I'VE BEEN... THINKING... ABOUT SOME REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS.

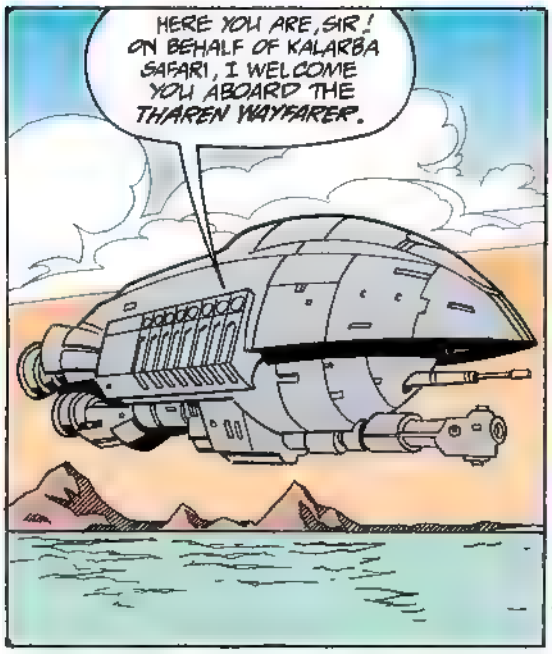

I...I KNOW WHAT I DID WAS WRONG, I GUESS I THOUGHT OLAG'S MONEY WOULD ...TAKE CARE OF ME.
BOY, WAS I STUPID!

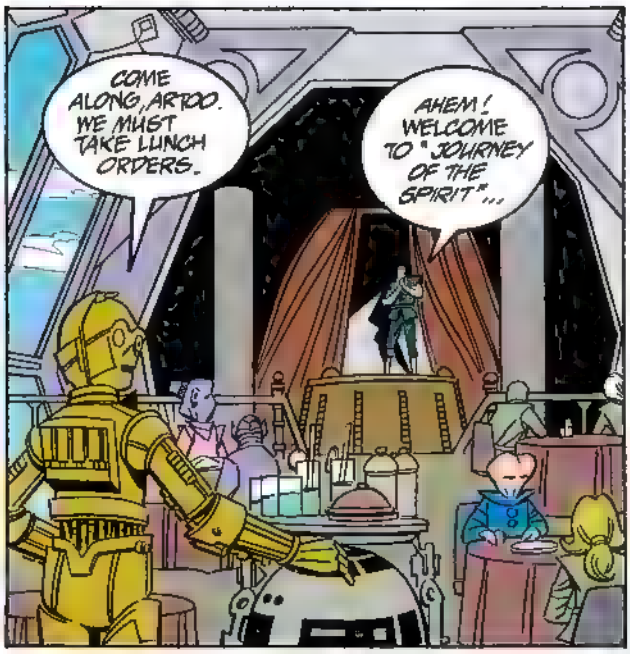

WHAT I NEED IS *FRIENDS*... FRIENDS THAT STAY BECAUSE THEY *WANT* TO, NOT BECAUSE THEY *HAVE* TO.

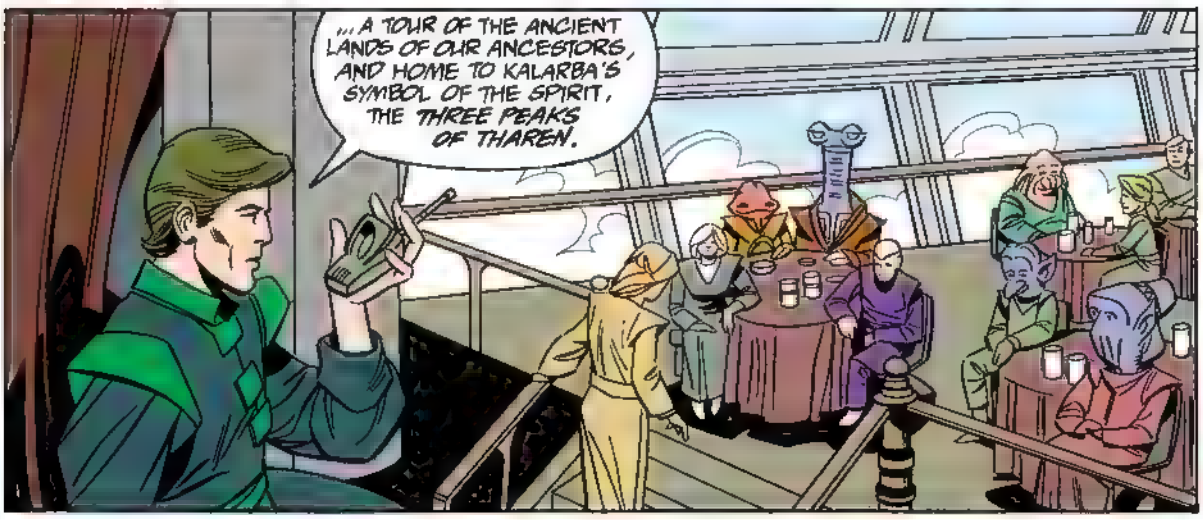

I WANT FRIENDS,.. NOT BABY-SITTERS.
POP!

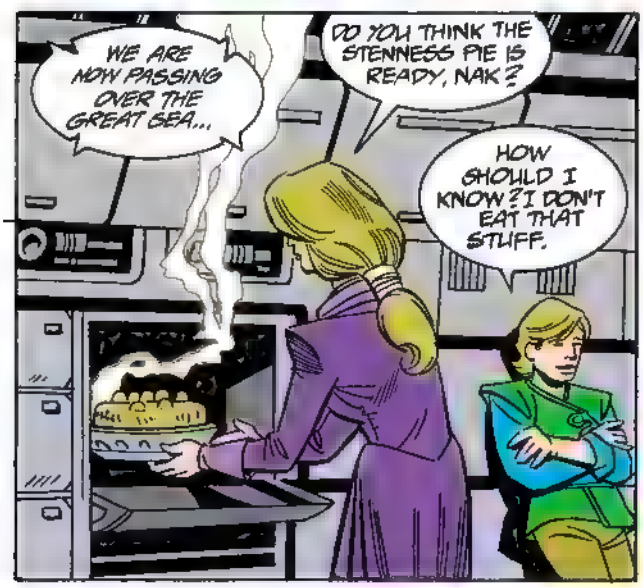

ARTOO! MASTER NAK REMOVED OUR RESTRAINING BOLTS! WHATEVER SHALL WE DO?
I, FOR ONE, RATHER LIKE IT HERE...
TWOOT A-DEE TOOO!

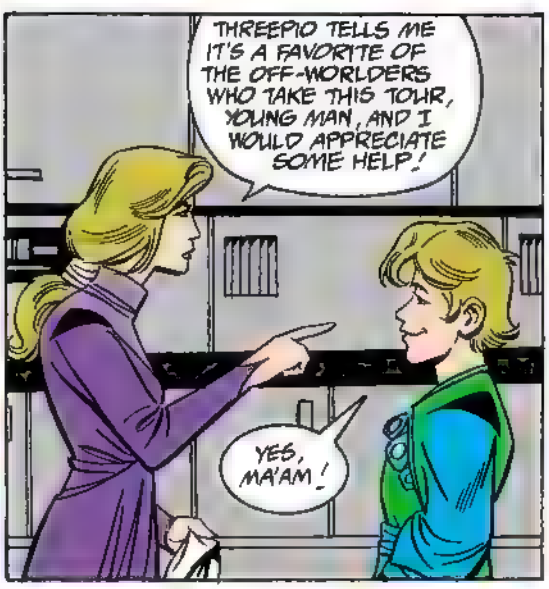

WHAT?! GO ON ADVENTURES? EXPLORE THE GALAXY?
YOU MUST BE SHORT-CIRCUITING AGAIN.' WE ARE DROIDS, AFTER ALL... NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS TO US!
BRAAAP!
OH, SWITCH OFF!


HERE YOU ARE, SIR! ON BEHALF OF KALARBA SAFARI, I WELCOME YOU ABOARD THE THAREN WAYFARER.


COME ALONG, ARTOO. WE MUST TAKE LUNCH ORDERS.
AHEM! WELCOME TO "JOURNEY OF THE SPIRIT"...


...A TOUR OF THE ANCIENT LANDS OF OUR ANCESTORS, AND HOME TO KALARBA'S SYMBOL OF THE SPIRIT, THE THREE PEAKS OF THAREN.


WE ARE NOW PASSING OVER THE GREAT SEA...
DO YOU THINK THE STENNESS PIE IS READY, NAK?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I DON'T EAT THAT STUFF.


THREEPIO TELLS ME IT'S A FAVORITE OF THE OFF-WORLDERS WHO TAKE THIS TOUR, YOUNG MAN, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE SOME HELP!
YES, MA'AM!

BAA ROOM

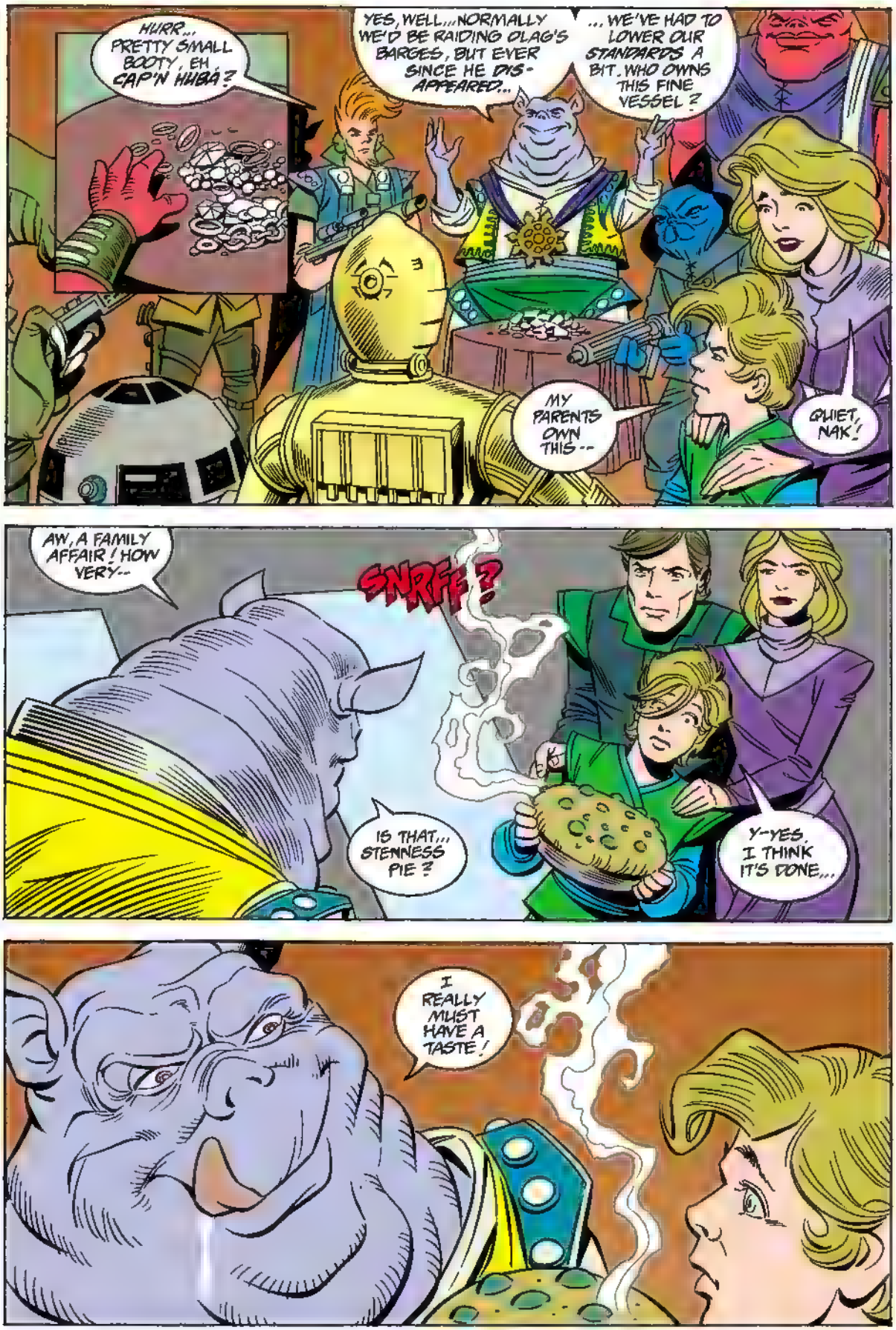
OH, YES, MADAM. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE STENNESS PIE. OUR COOK IS AN EXPERT--

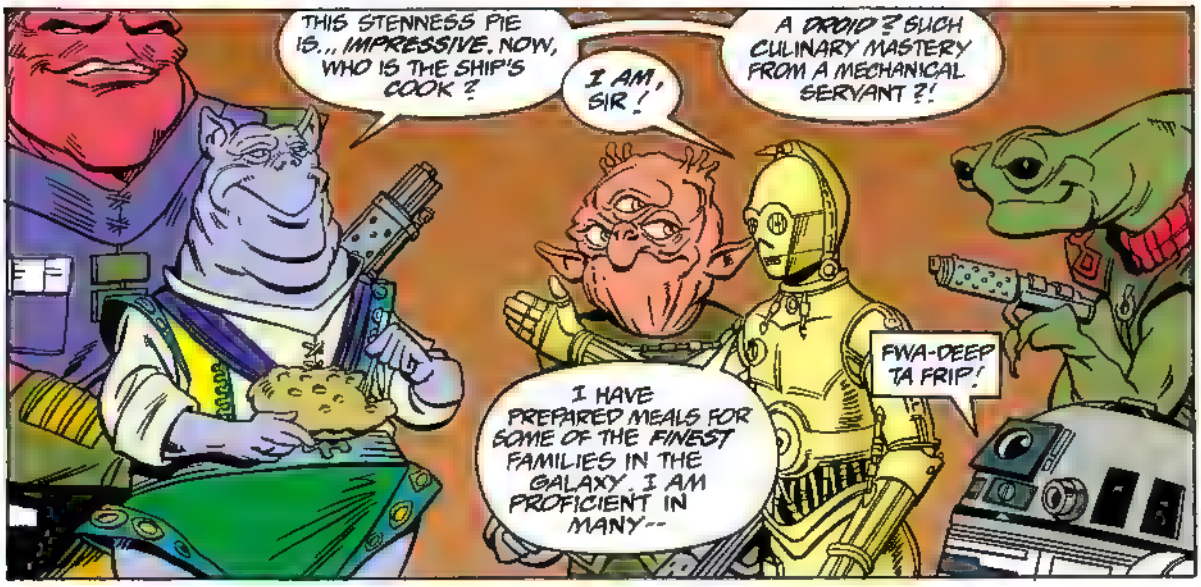
WHAT WAS THAT?

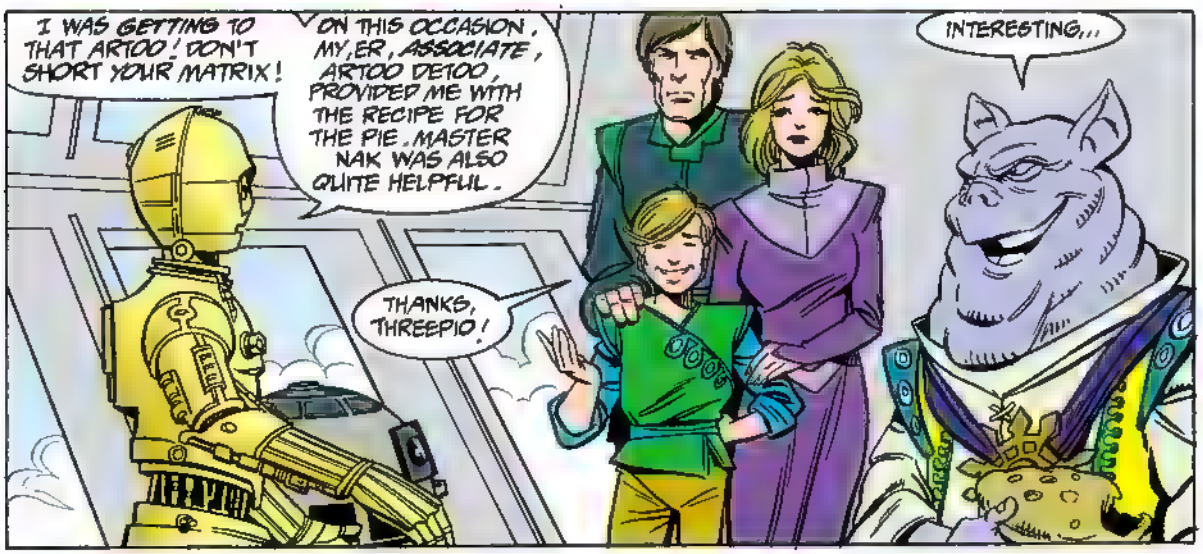
HO, SHIP! CUT YOUR ENGINES AND COME TO A STOP! IF YA DON'T, THE NEXT SHOT WILL HIT YA GOOD, AND THAT'S A FACT!

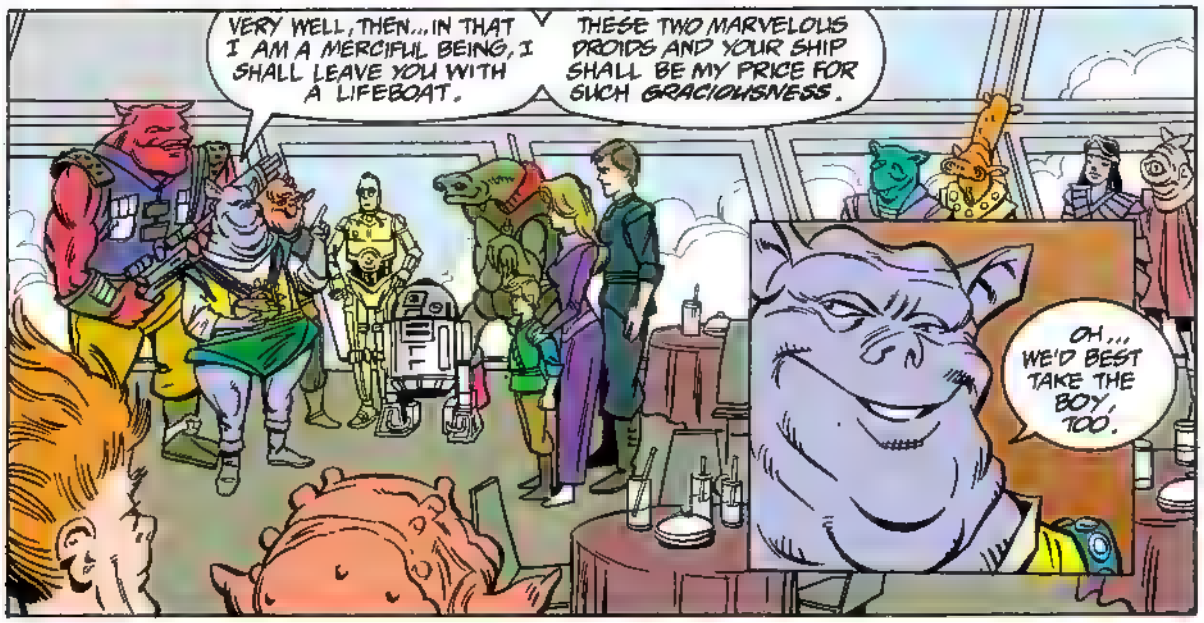
PREPARE TO BE BOARDED, AND GET YER VALUABLES OUTTA YER POCKETS-- WE'RE HERE TA STEAL, AND THAT'S A FACT!

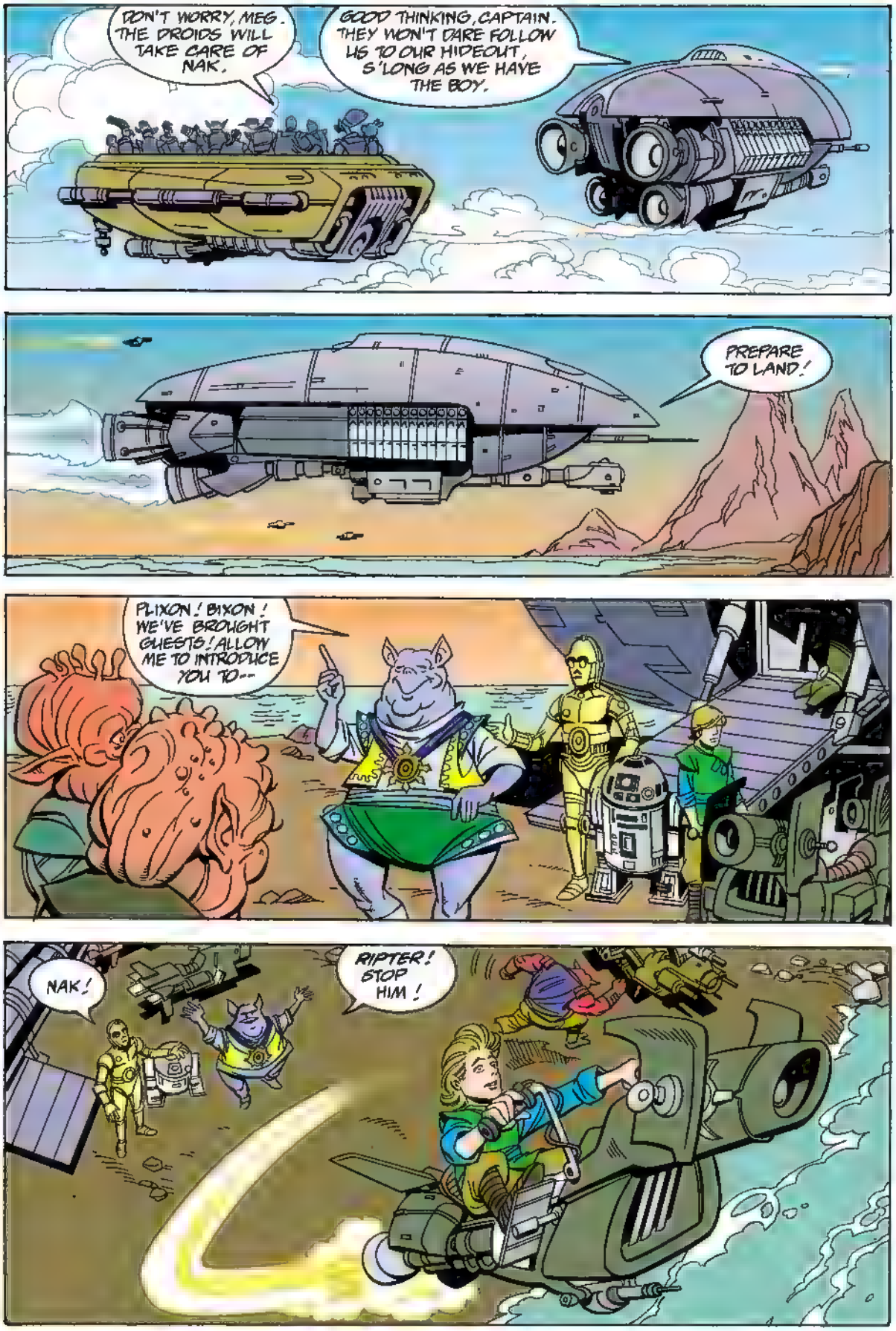
OK

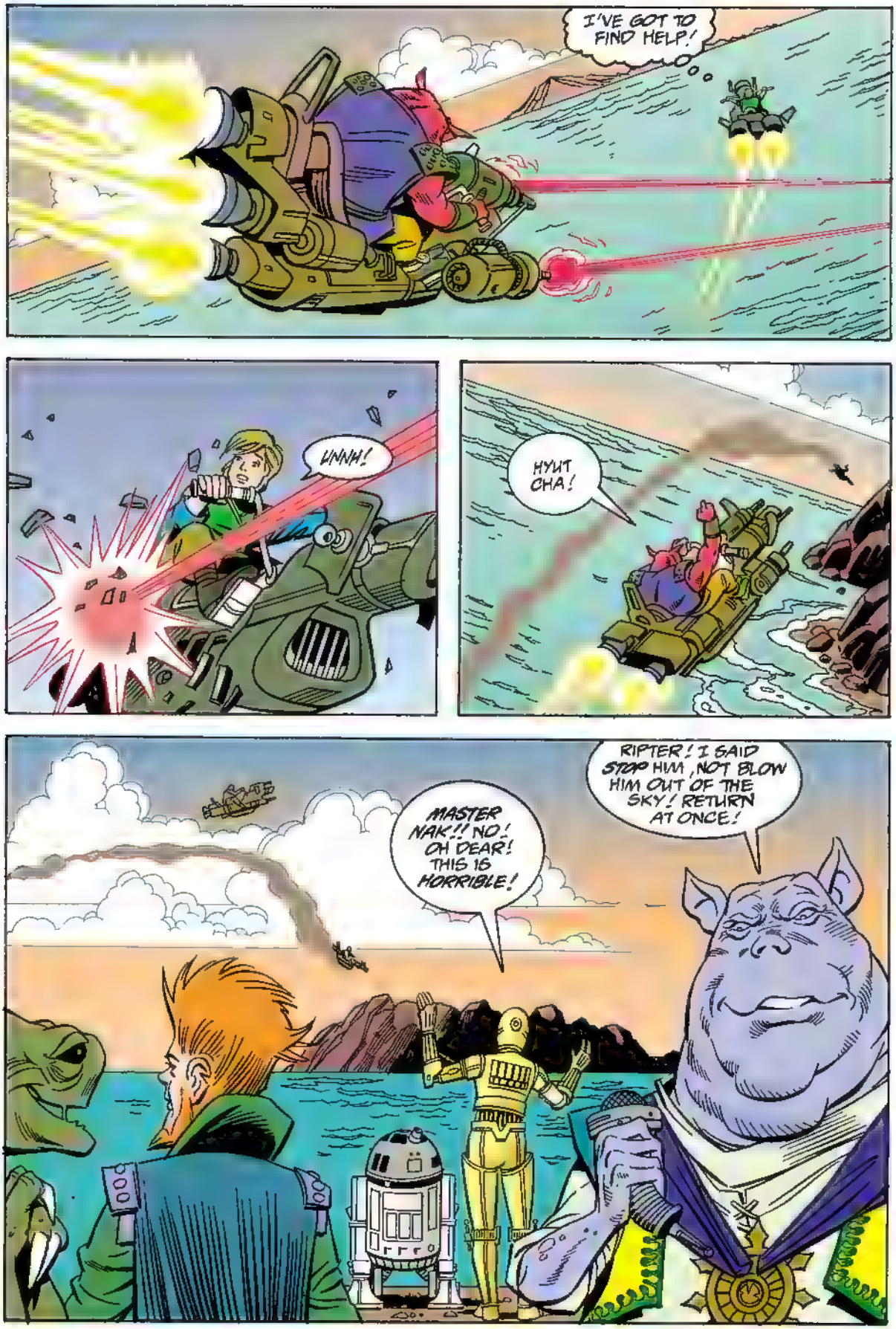

HURR... PRETTY SMALL BOOTY, EH CAP'N HUBA?
YES, WELL... NORMALLY WE'D BE RAIDING OLAG'S BARGES, BUT EVER SINCE HE DIS-APPEARED..
... WE'VE HAD TO LOWER OUR STANDARDS A BIT. WHO OWNS THIS FINE VESSEL?
MY PARENTS OWN THIS--
QUIET, NAK!
AW, A FAMILY AFFAIR! HOW VERY--
SNRFF?
IS THAT... STENNESS PIE?
Y-YES, I THINK IT'S DONE...
I REALLY MUST HAVE A TASTE!

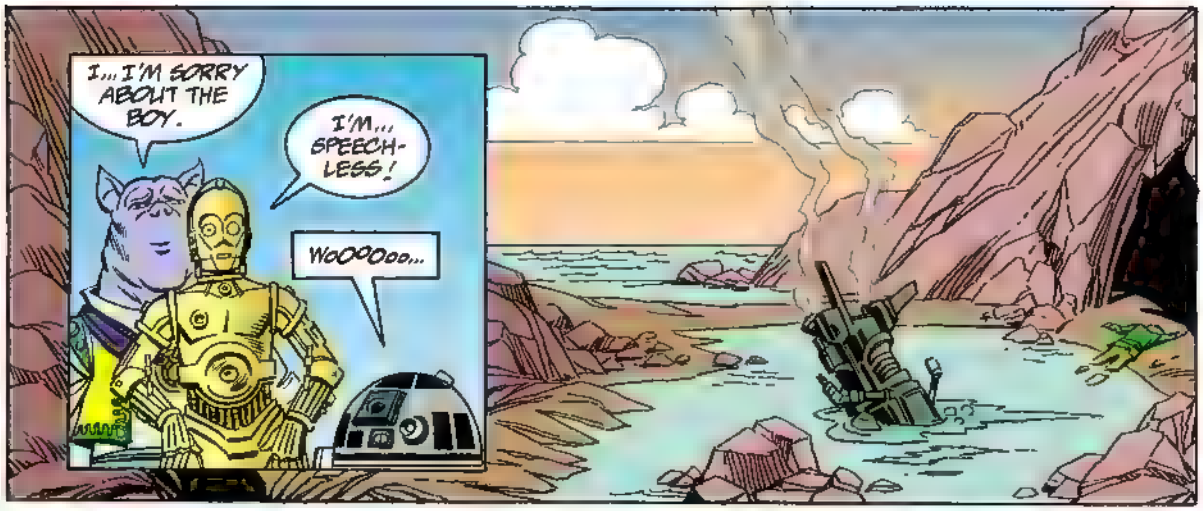

THIS STENNESS PIE IS... IMPRESSIVE. NOW, WHO IS THE SHIP'S COOK?
I AM, SIR!
A DROID? SUCH CULINARY MASTERY FROM A MECHANICAL SERVANT?!
I HAVE PREPARED MEALS FOR SOME OF THE FINEST FAMILIES IN THE GALAXY. I AM PROFICIENT IN MANY--
FWA-DEEP TA FRIP!

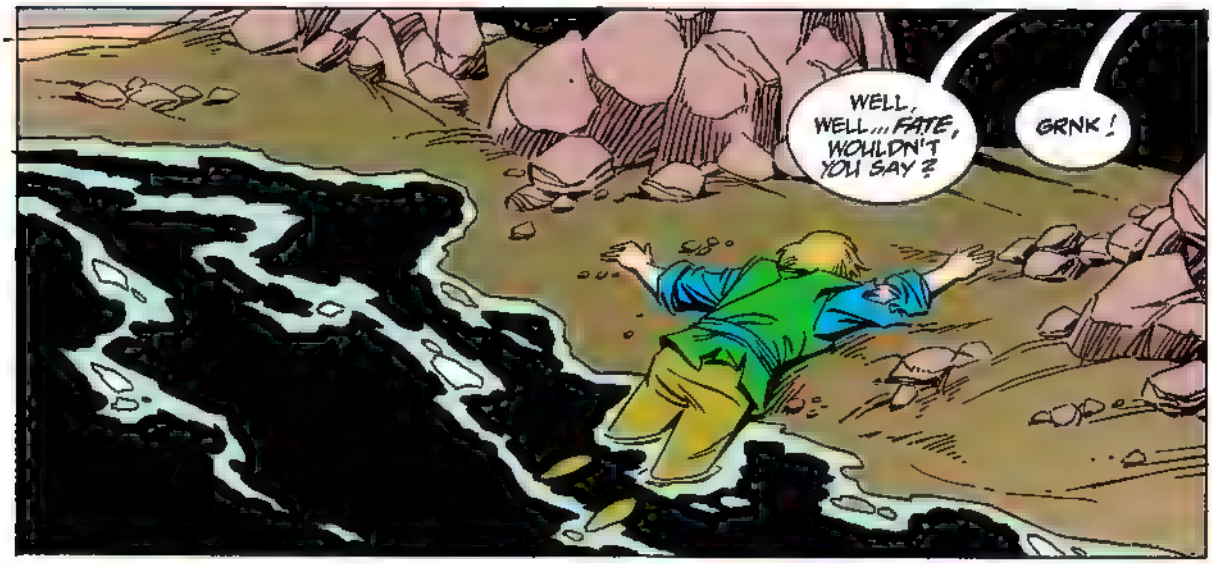

I WAS GETTING TO THAT ARTOO! DON'T SHORT YOUR MATRIX!
ON THIS OCCASION, MY, ER, ASSOCIATE, ARTOO DETOO, PROVIDED ME WITH THE RECIPE FOR THE PIE. MASTER NAK WAS ALSO QUITE HELPFUL.
INTERESTING...
THANKS, THREEPIO!

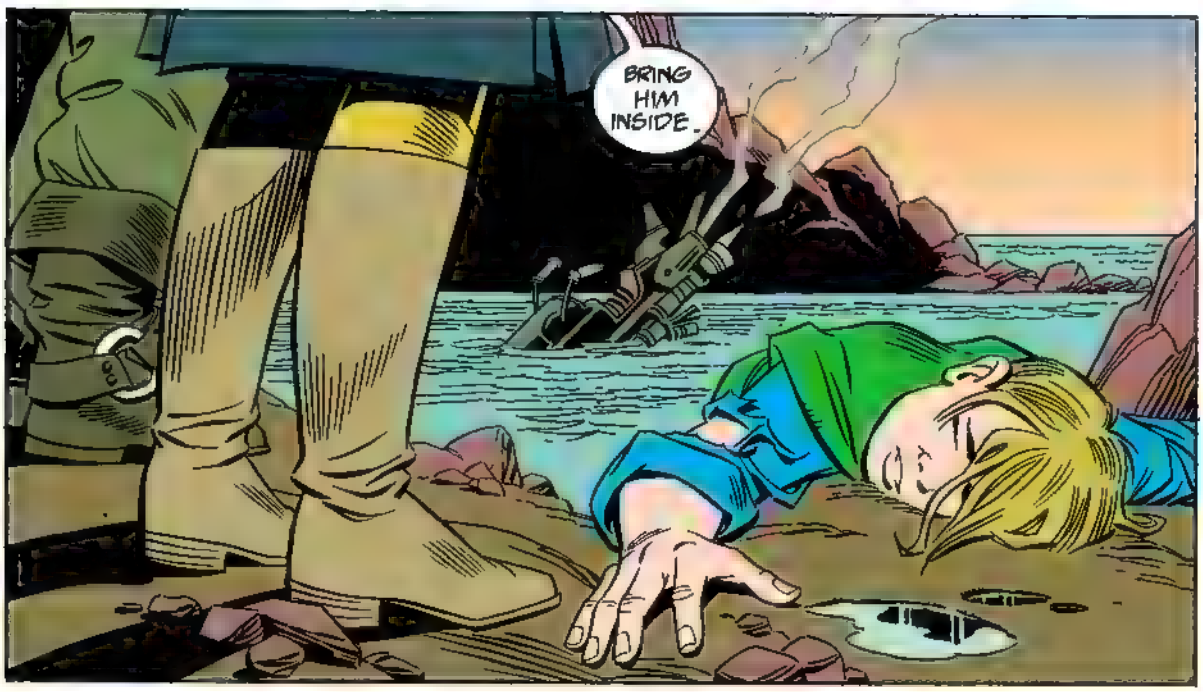

VERY WELL, THEN... IN THAT I AM A MERCIFUL BEING, I SHALL LEAVE YOU WITH A LIFEBOAT.
THESE TWO MARVELOUS DROIDS AND YOUR SHIP SHALL BE MY PRICE FOR SUCH GRACIOUSNESS.
OH... WE'D BEST TAKE THE BOY, TOO.

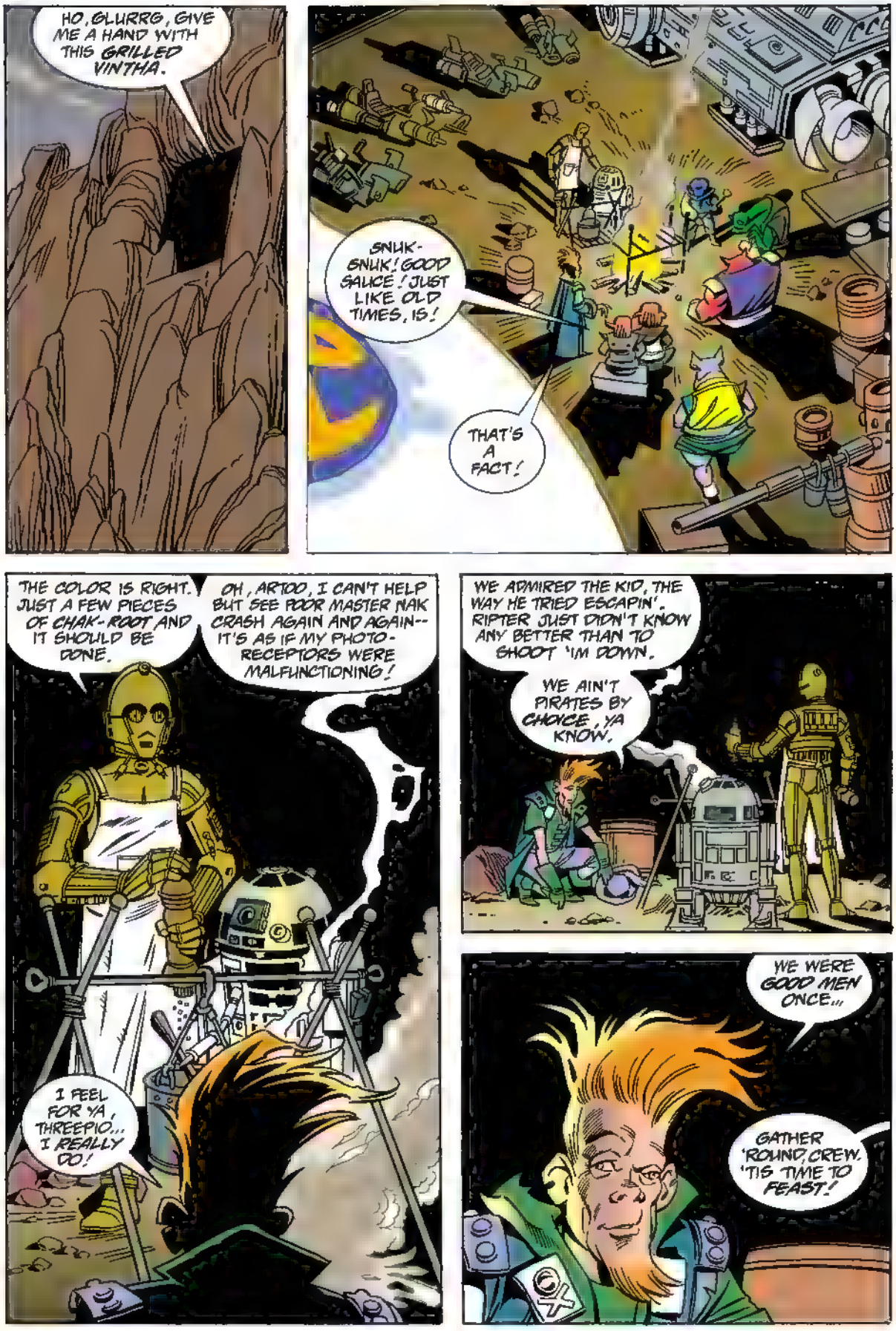

DON'T WORRY, MEG. THE DROIDS WILL TAKE CARE OF NAK.
GOOD THINKING, CAPTAIN. THEY WON'T DARE FOLLOW US TO OUR HIDEOUT, S'LONG AS WE HAVE THE BOY.
PREPARE TO LAND!
PLIXON! BIXON! WE'VE BROUGHT GUESTS! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO--
NAK!
RIPTER! STOP HIM!


I'VE GOT TO FIND HELP!
UNNH!
HYUT CHA!
MASTER NAK!! NO! OH DEAR! THIS IS HORRIBLE!
RIPTER! I SAID STOP HIM, NOT BLOW HIM OUT OF THE SKY! RETURN AT ONCE!

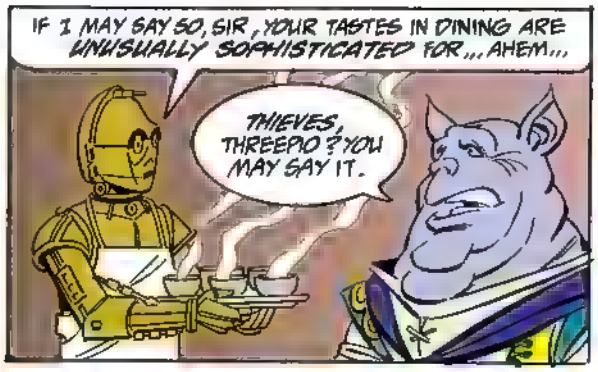

I... I'M SORRY ABOUT THE BOY.
I'M... SPEECH-LESS!
WOOOOoo...


WELL, WELL... FATE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
GRNK!


BRING HIM INSIDE.


HO, GLURRG, GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS GRILLED VINTHA.
SNUK-SNUK! GOOD SAUCE! JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, IS!
THAT'S A FACT!
THE COLOR IS RIGHT. JUST A FEW PIECES OF CHAK-ROOT AND IT SHOULD BE DONE.
OH, ARTOO, I CAN'T HELP BUT SEE POOR MASTER NAK CRASH AGAIN AND AGAIN-- IT'S AS IF MY PHOTO-RECEPTORS WERE MALFUNCTIONING!
I FEEL FOR YA, THREEPIO... I REALLY DO!
WE ADMIRED THE KID, THE WAY HE TRIED ESCAPIN'. RIPTER JUST DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER THAN TO SHOOT 'IM DOWN.
WE AIN'T PIRATES BY CHOICE, YA KNOW.
WE WERE GOOD MEN ONCE...
GATHER 'ROUND, CREW. 'TIS TIME TO FEAST!

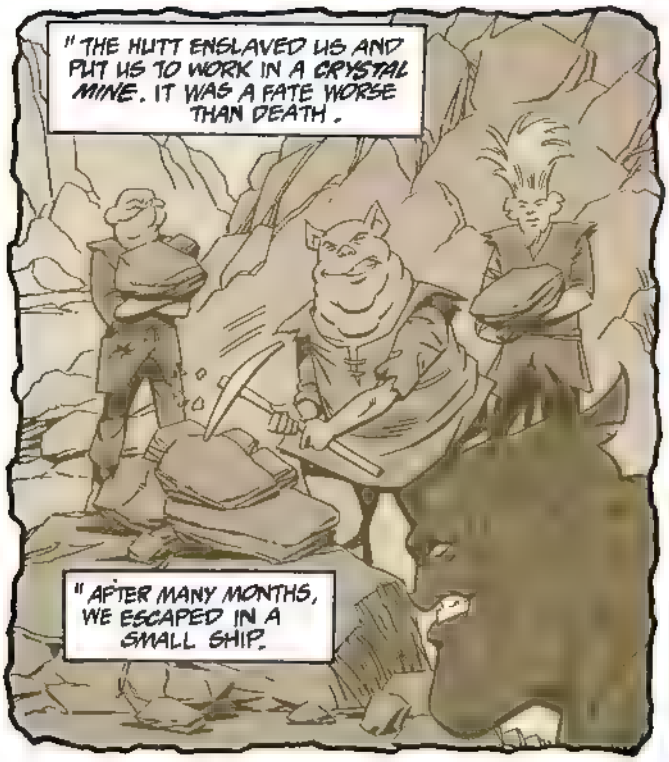
THE FORMER OWNERS OF THE WAYFARER HAD THE GOOD TASTE TO STOCK HER GALLEY WITH EBLA-BEER!
AS YOUR GENEROUS CAPTAIN, I ORDER YOU TO DRINK AND ENJOY, FOR TONIGHT WE ARE ONE STEP CLOSER TO OUR DREAM!
AYE!


IF I MAY SAY SO, SIR, YOUR TASTES IN DINING ARE UNUSUALLY SOPHISTICATED FOR... AHEM...
THIEVES, THREEPIO? YOU MAY SAY IT.

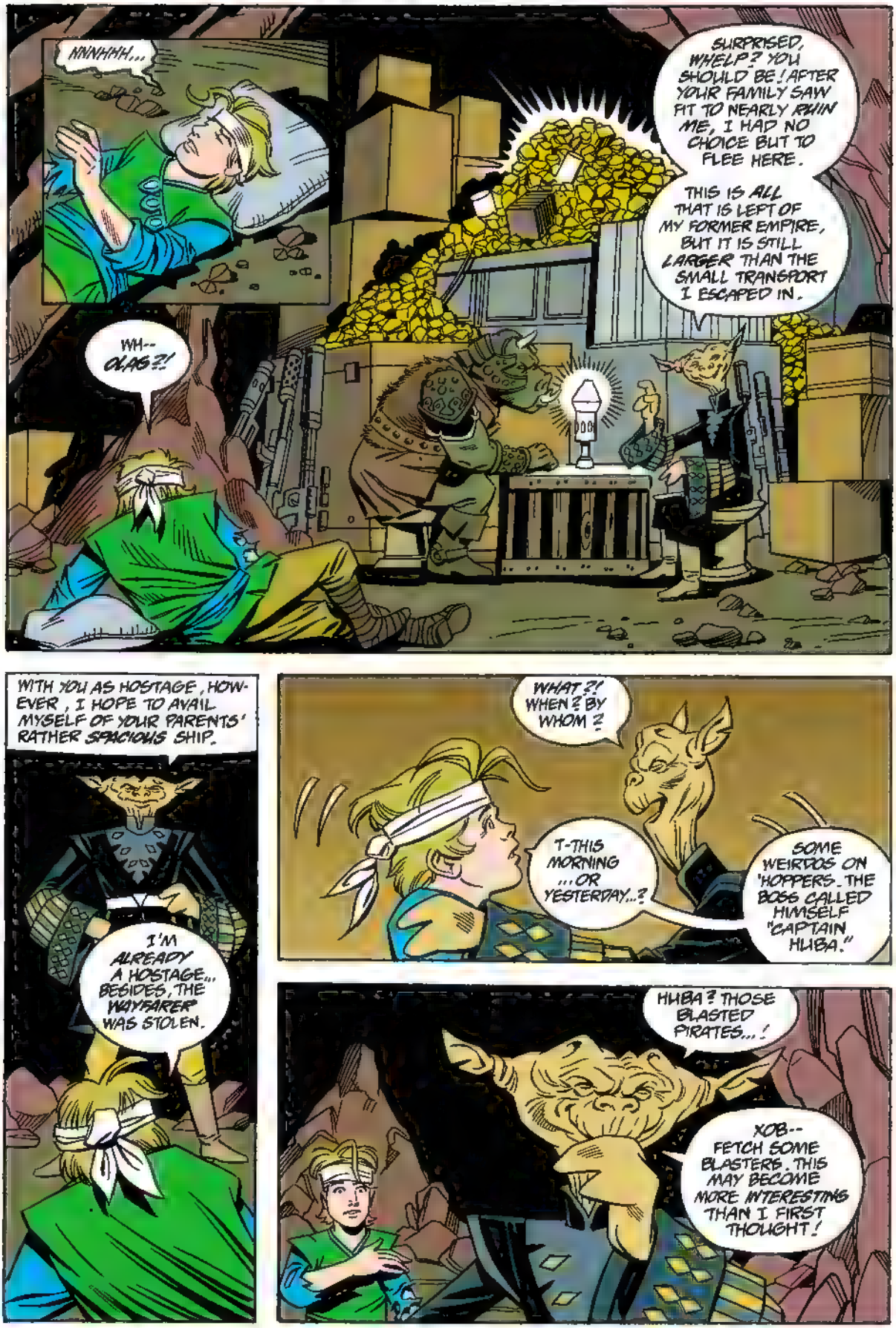
WE WERE COOKS... THE FINEST CHEFS IN THE SECTOR. WE HAD A DREAM...
...TO OPEN OUR OWN CANTINA. THE DREAM WAS SHATTERED BY THE BLACKEST VILLAIN I HAVE EVER MET...
...OLAG GREEK!

"OLAG HIRED US TO COOK FOR HIM, TO PREPARE A GRAND MEAL FOR A HUTT GANGLORD WITH WHOM HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO CLOSE A DEAL.
"WE PREPARED A MEMORABLE FEAST, TOPPED OFF BY BROILED FEEJAY-- A DELICACY REVERED BY HUTTS.

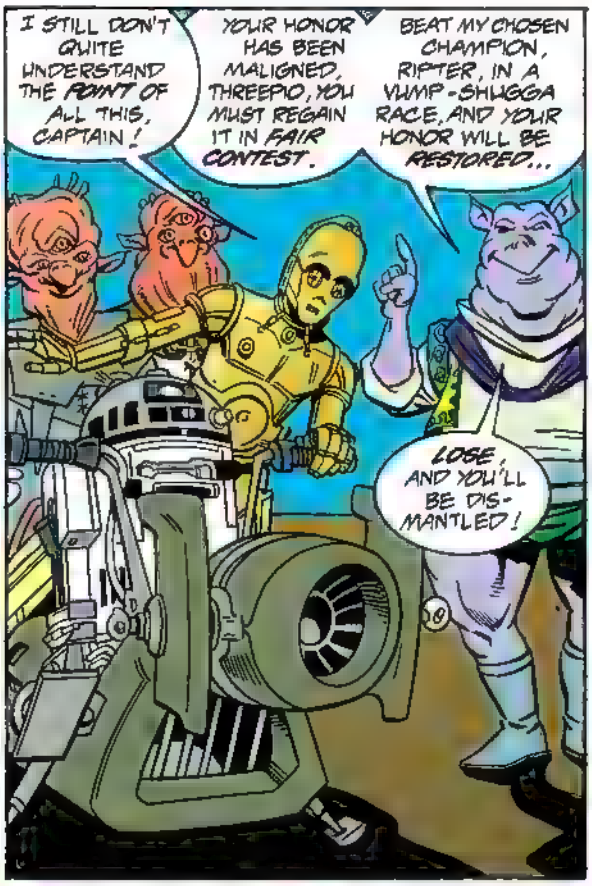
"UNBEKNOWNST TO US, OLAG HAD PLANNED TO KILL THE HUTT AND TAKE OVER HIS TERRITORIES. OLAG POISONED THE MEAL!
"BUT THE POISON PROVED LESS POTENT THAN OLAG'S INTENT.
"THE HUTT SURVIVED, AND ORDERED OLAG EXECUTED ON THE SPOT.
"BUT OLAG, WITH CHARACTERISTIC GUILE, ACCUSED US OF SERVING SPOILED FEEJAY!


"THE HUTT ENSLAVED US AND PUT US TO WORK IN A CRYSTAL MINE. IT WAS A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH.
"AFTER MANY MONTHS, WE ESCAPED IN A SMALL SHIP.

OUR REPUTATION AS COOKS RUINED, A BOUNTY ON OUR HEADS... WE TOOK TO PLUNDER... THE ONLY WAY TO AMASS THE WEALTH NEEDED FOR...OUR DREAM.
DRINK TO TOMORROW...!

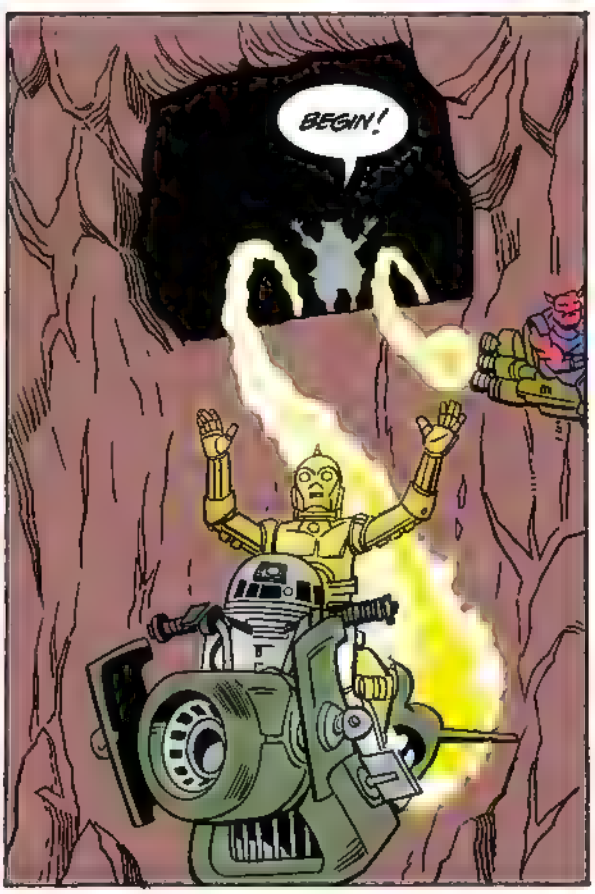

NNNHHH...
WH--
OLAS?!
SURPRISED, WHELP? YOU SHOULD BE! AFTER YOUR FAMILY SAW FIT TO NEARLY RUIN ME, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FLEE HERE.
THIS IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF MY FORMER EMPIRE, BUT IT IS STILL LARGER THAN THE SMALL TRANSPORT I ESCAPED IN.
WITH YOU AS HOSTAGE, HOWEVER, I HOPE TO AVAIL MYSELF OF YOUR PARENTS' RATHER SPACIOUS SHIP.
I'M ALREADY A HOSTAGE... BESIDES, THE WAYFARER WAS STOLEN.
WHAT?! WHEN? BY WHOM?
T-THIS MORNING ...OR YESTERDAY...?
SOME WEIRDOS ON 'HOPPERS. THE BOSS CALLED HIMSELF "CAPTAIN HUBA."
HUBA? THOSE BLASTED PIRATES...!
XOB-- FETCH SOME BLASTERS. THIS MAY BECOME MORE INTERESTING THAN I FIRST THOUGHT!

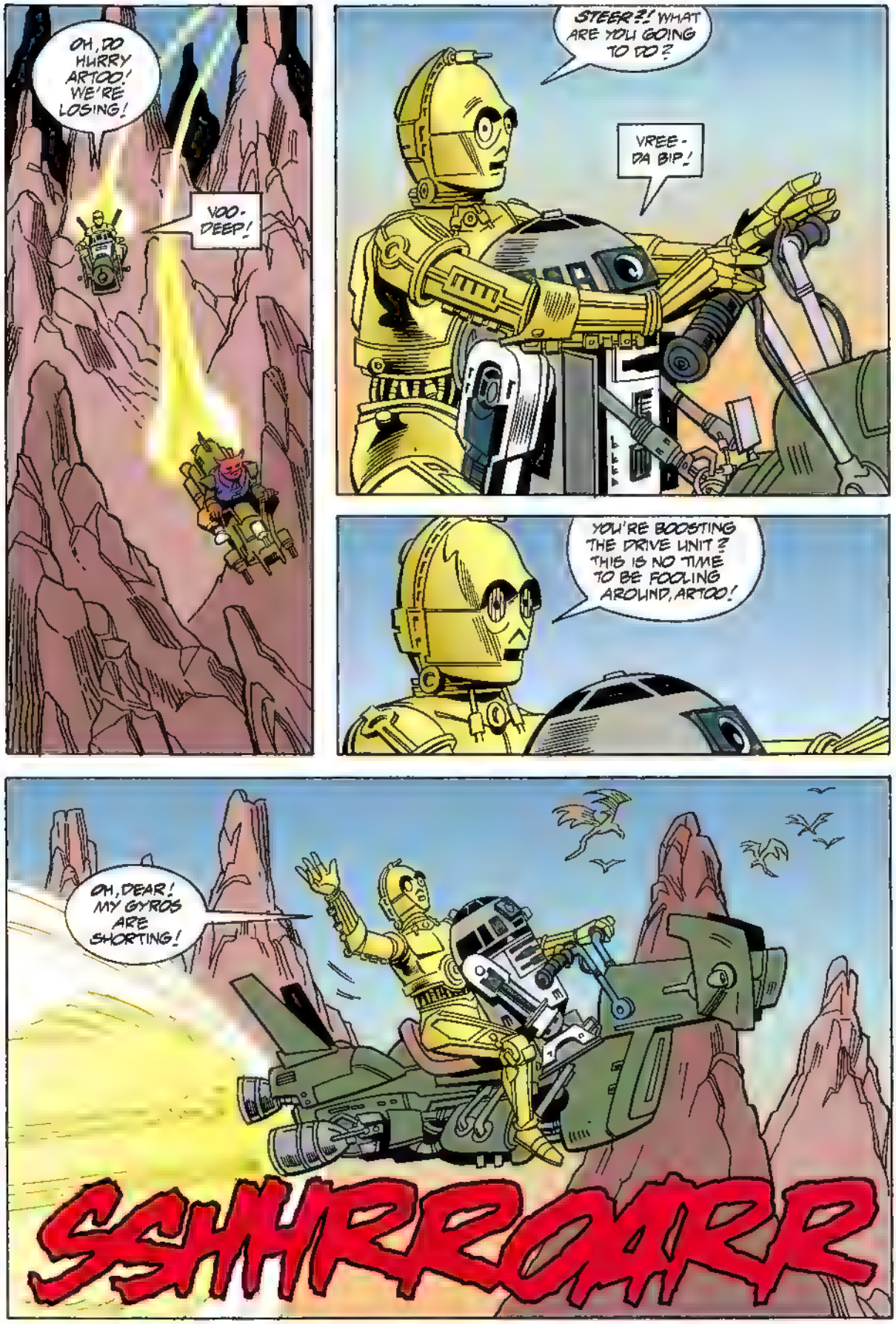
ARTOO? ARTOO! SWITCH ON, ARTOO!
BLURP...?
QUIET-- THEY'RE ALL ASLEEP! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
HEY, GOLDENBOY, WHAT'S THE HURRY?
OH, GOOD MORNING, SIR! ARTOO AND I WERE JUST ABOUT TO--
YOU WERE ABOUT TO SCRATCH GRAVEL! WE DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO GUESTS SNEAKING OFF, THREEPIO...
I THINK IT'S TIME WE PLAYED A ROUND OF VUMP-SHUGGA. EH, RIPTER?
"VUMP-SHUGGA?" OH, DEAR...!


I STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THE POINT OF ALL THIS, CAPTAIN!
YOUR HONOR HAS BEEN MALIGNED, THREEPIO, YOU MUST REGAIN IT IN FAIR CONTEST.
BEAT MY CHOSEN CHAMPION, RIPTER, IN A VUMP-SHUGGA RACE, AND YOUR HONOR WILL BE RESTORED...
LOSE, AND YOU'LL BE DISMANTLED!

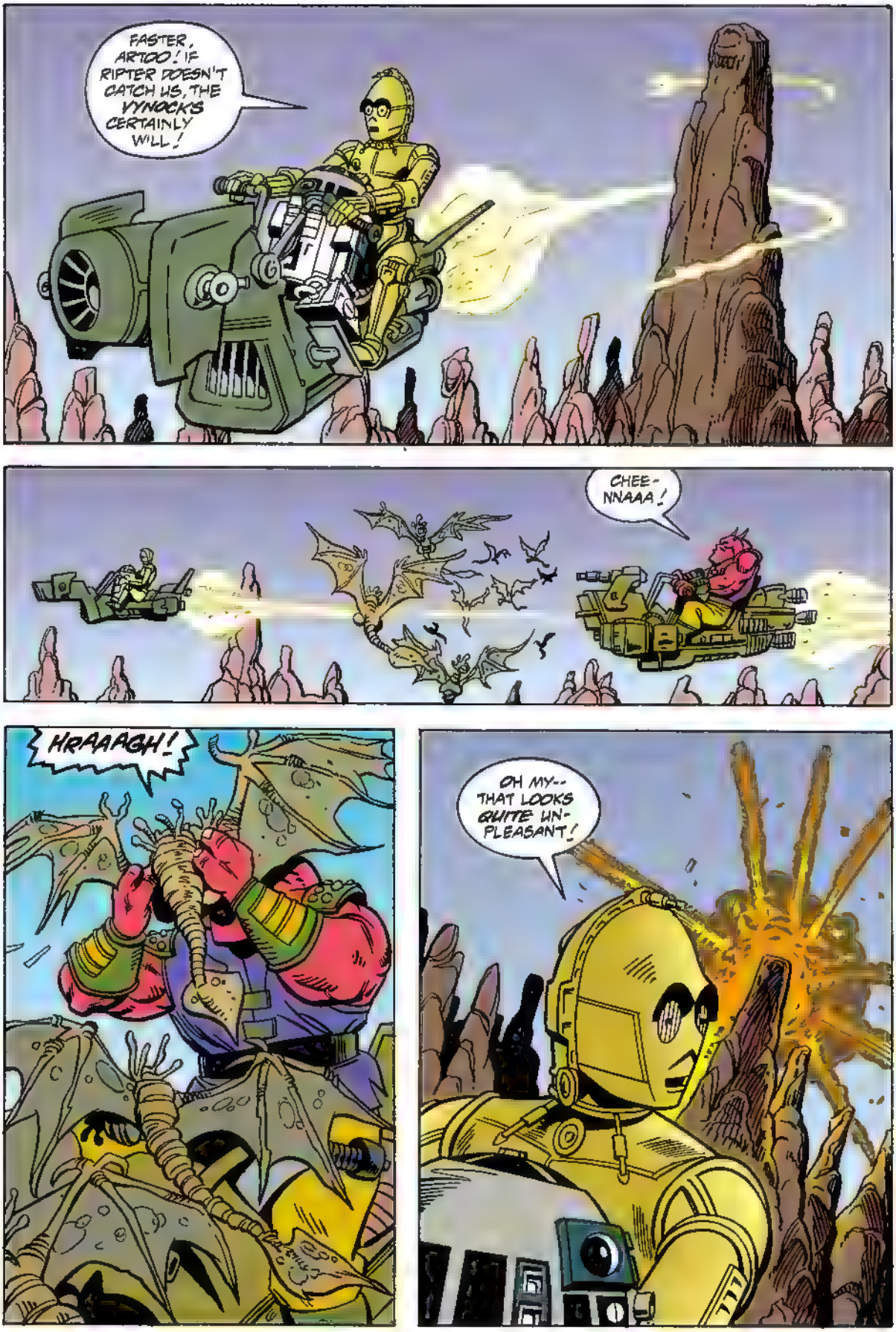
THE OBJECTIVE IS SIMPLE. RETRIEVE MY PENDANT FROM ATOP THAT PEAK.
WHOMEVER HANDS THAT PENDANT TO ME, BY ANY MEANS, WINS.

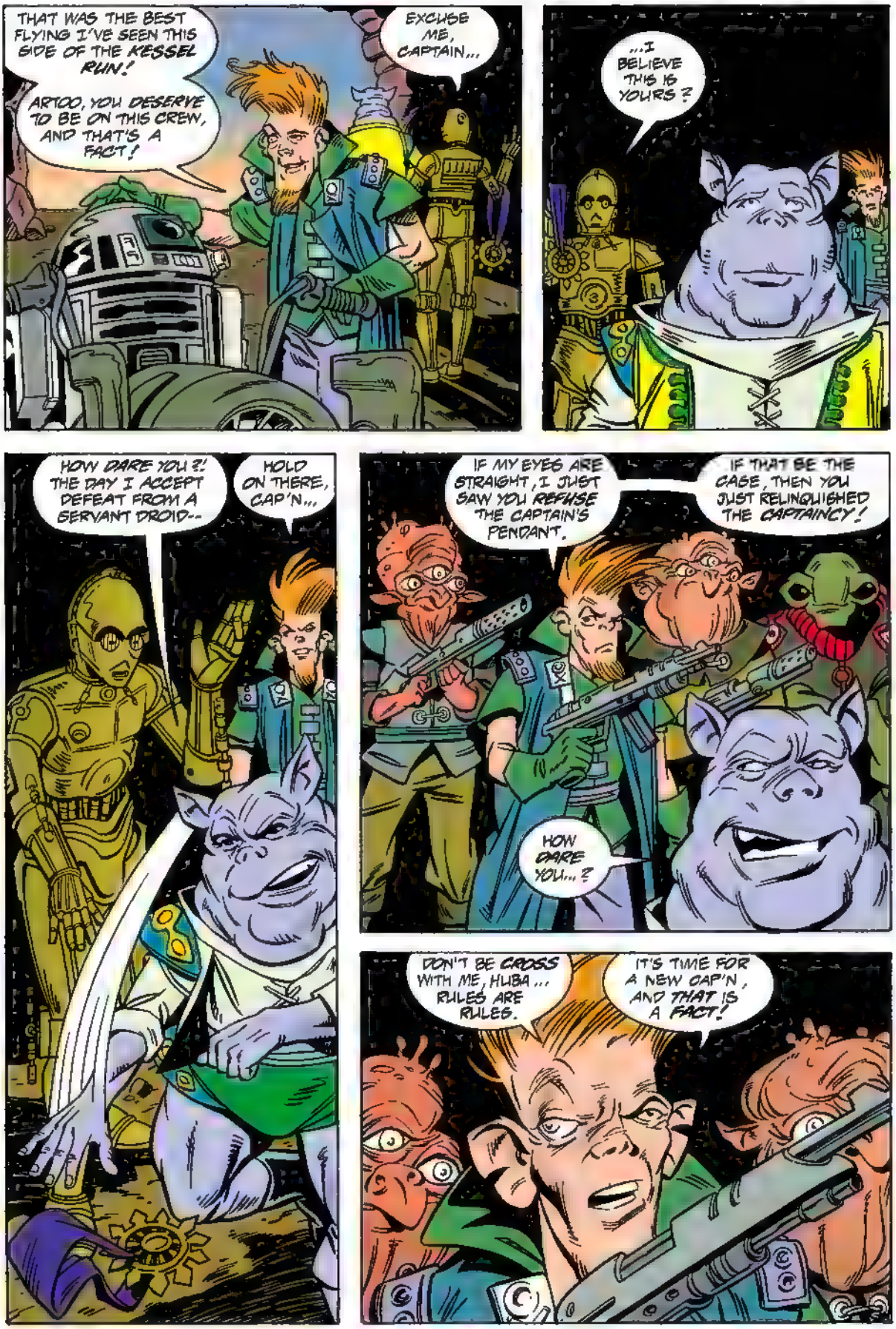
A WORD OF ADVICE: IT IS BEST TO STAY AT GROUND LEVEL. THOSE ARE VYNOCKS SCAVENGING FOR METAL OUT THERE...
THEY WOULD CERTAINLY ENJOY A DROID SNACK!
OH DEAR!


BEGIN!

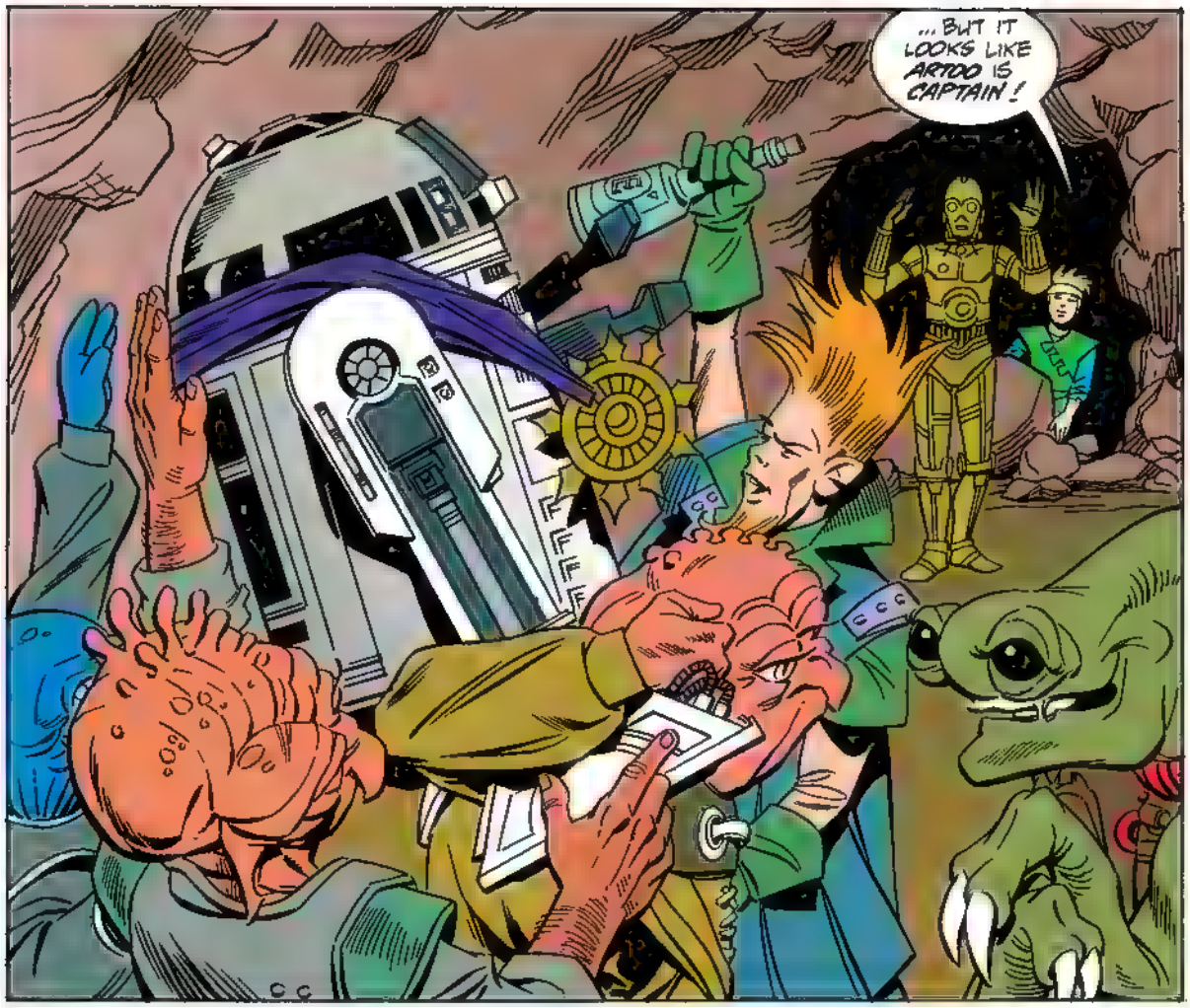

OH, DO HURRY ARTOO! WE'RE LOSING!
VOO-DEEP!
STEER?! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
VREE-DA BIP!
YOU'RE BOOSTING THE DRIVE UNIT? THIS IS NO TIME TO BE FOOLING AROUND, ARTOO!
OH, DEAR! MY GYROS ARE SHORTING!
SCHHRROARR

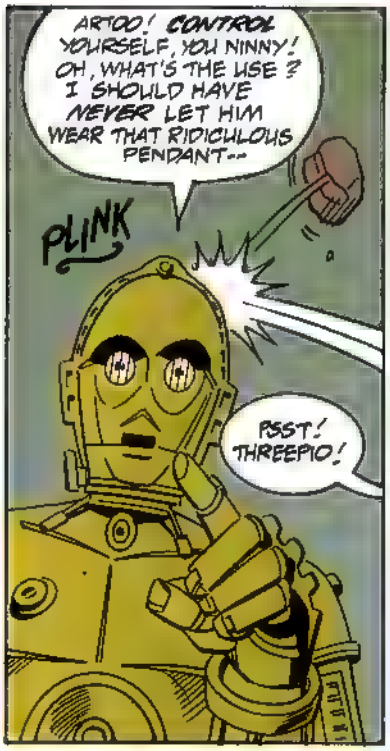
LOOK! RIPTER'S GOT THE PENDANT!
HYA CHOODA!
HWUR?
SLOW DOWN, ARTOO! LOOK OUT!
WHAT IS--THE PENDANT! ARTOO, I CAUGHT THE PENDANT!


FASTER, ARTOO! IF RIPTER DOESN'T CATCH US, THE VYNOCKS CERTAINLY WILL!
CHEE-NNAAA!
HRAAAGH!
OH MY-- THAT LOOKS QUITE UN-PLEASANT!

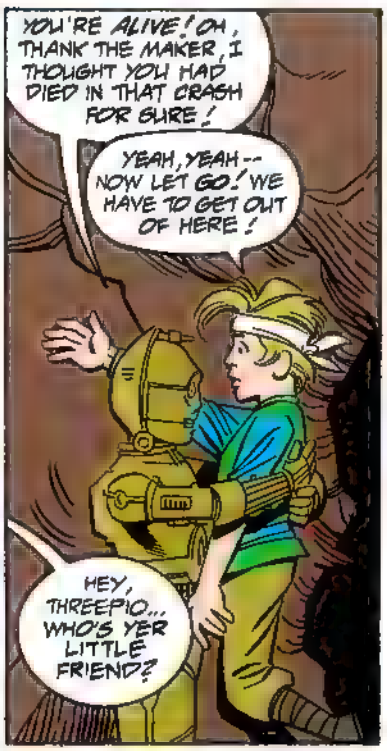

THAT WAS THE BEST FLYING I'VE SEEN THIS SIDE OF THE KESSEL RUN!
ARTOO, YOU DESERVE TO BE ON THIS CREW, AND THAT'S A FACT!
EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN...
...I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS?
HOW DARE YOU?! THE DAY I ACCEPT DEFEAT FROM A SERVANT DROID--
HOLD ON THERE, CAP'N...
IF MY EYES ARE STRAIGHT, I JUST SAW YOU REFUSE THE CAPTAIN'S PENDANT.
IF THAT BE THE CASE, THEN YOU JUST RELINQUISHED THE CAPTAINCY!
HOW DARE YOU...?
DON'T BE CROSS WITH ME, HUBA... RULES ARE RULES.
IT'S TIME FOR A NEW CAP'N, AND THAT IS A FACT!

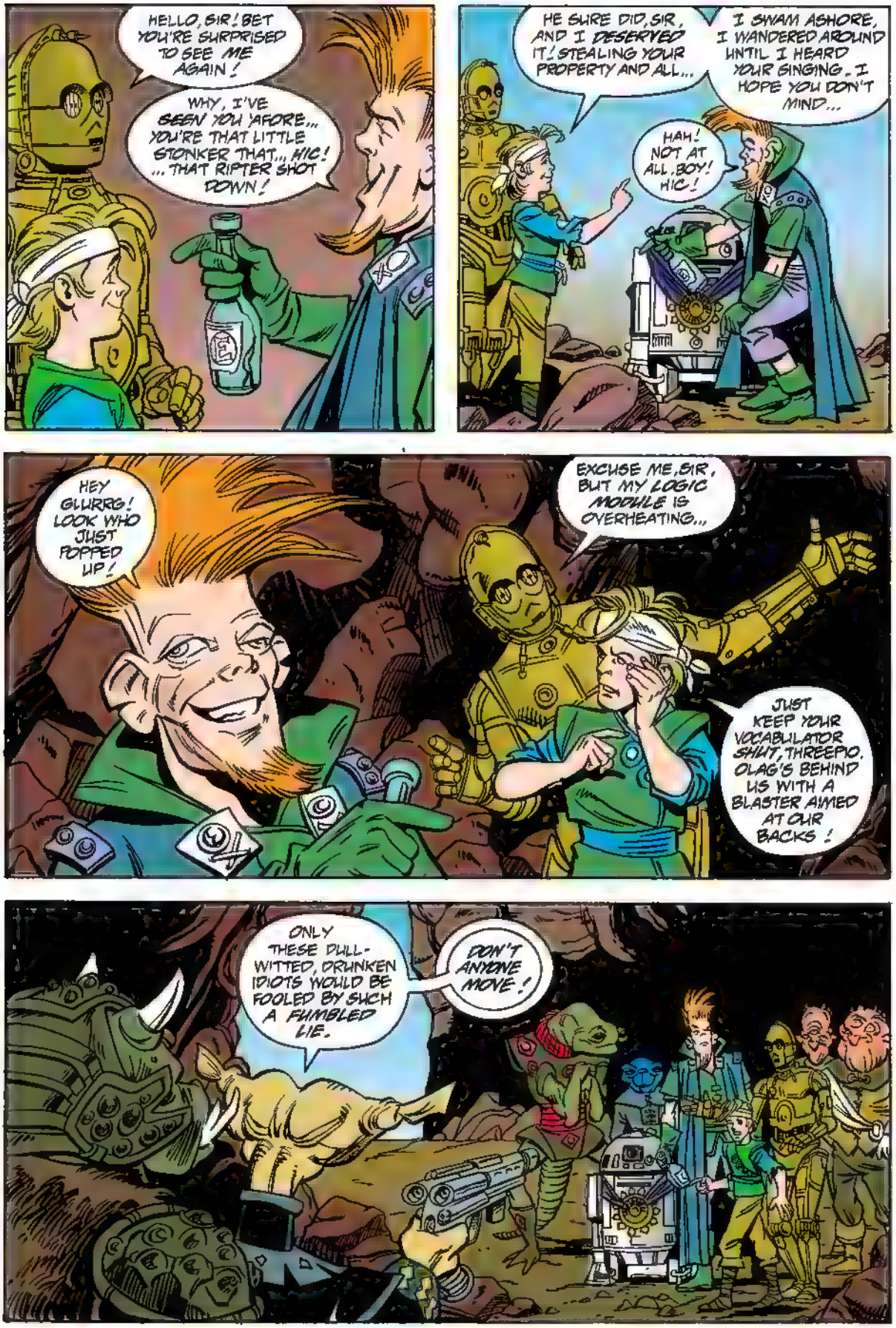
MEANWHILE...
MY FEET HURT. ARE WE THERE YET?
QUIET, BOY. THIS PASSAGE LEADS STRAIGHT TO WHERE THAT IDIOT HUTTA SET UP BASE.
I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF HIS LOCATION FOR SOME TIME, BUT HAVE NEVER HAD A REASON TO CONFRONT HIM UNTIL NOW.
NOW SILENCE. WE DON'T WANT YOUR WHINING TO WARN HIM OF OUR APPROACH.
ARE WE THAT CLOSE?
THERE. YOU FIRST, BOY.
NOW REMEMBER; ONCE YOU'RE IN THE CAVE, DRAW THEIR ATTENTION TO THE ENTRANCE, THEN WE'LL TAKE THEM FROM BEHIND.
WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO YOU SEE?!
I--I CAN'T TELL FOR SURE.


...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE ARTOO IS CAPTAIN!


ARTOO! CONTROL YOURSELF, YOU NINNY! OH, WHAT'S THE USE? I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LET HIM WEAR THAT RIDICULOUS PENDANT--
PLINK
PSST! THREEPIO!

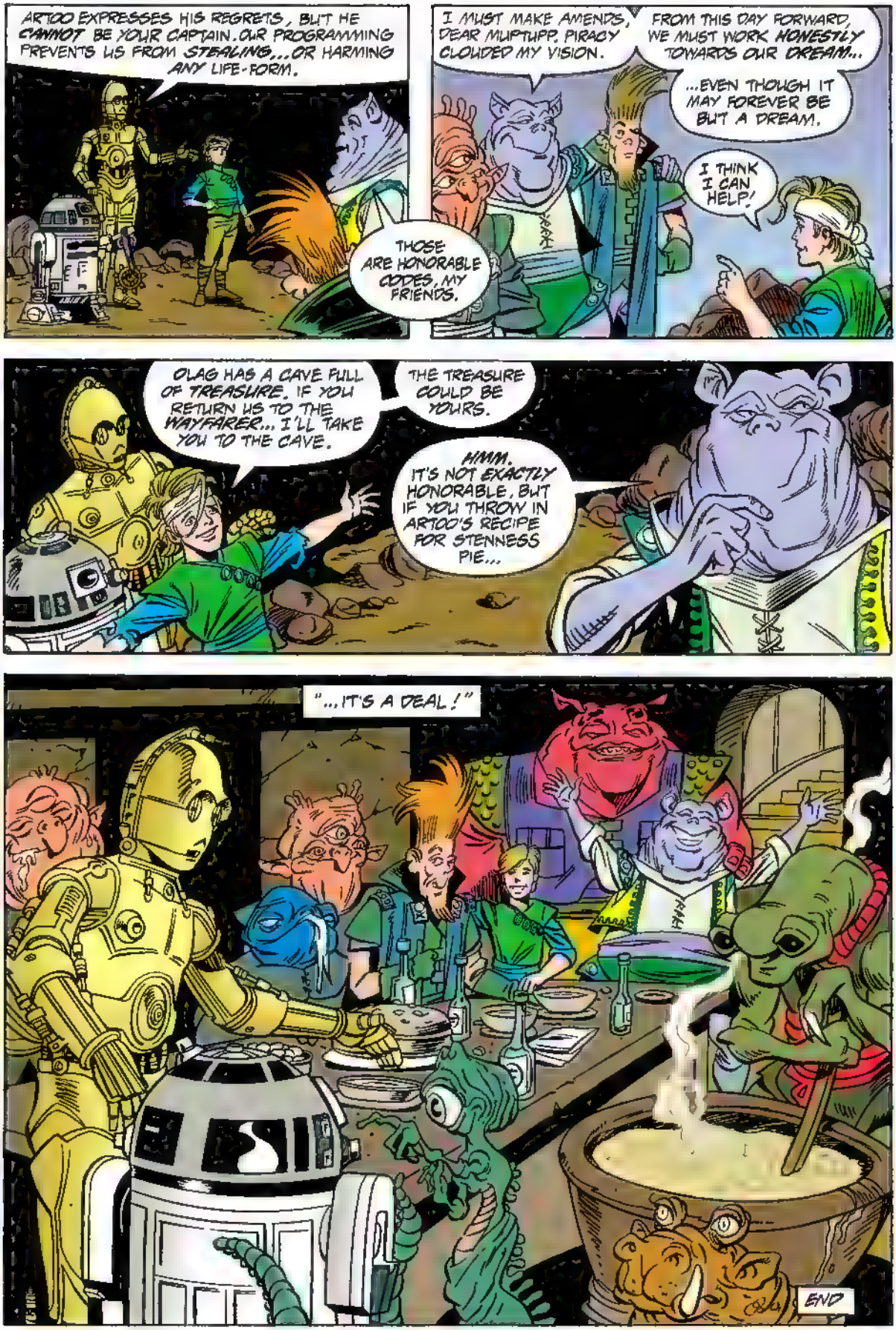
OVER HERE!
MASTER NAK?!

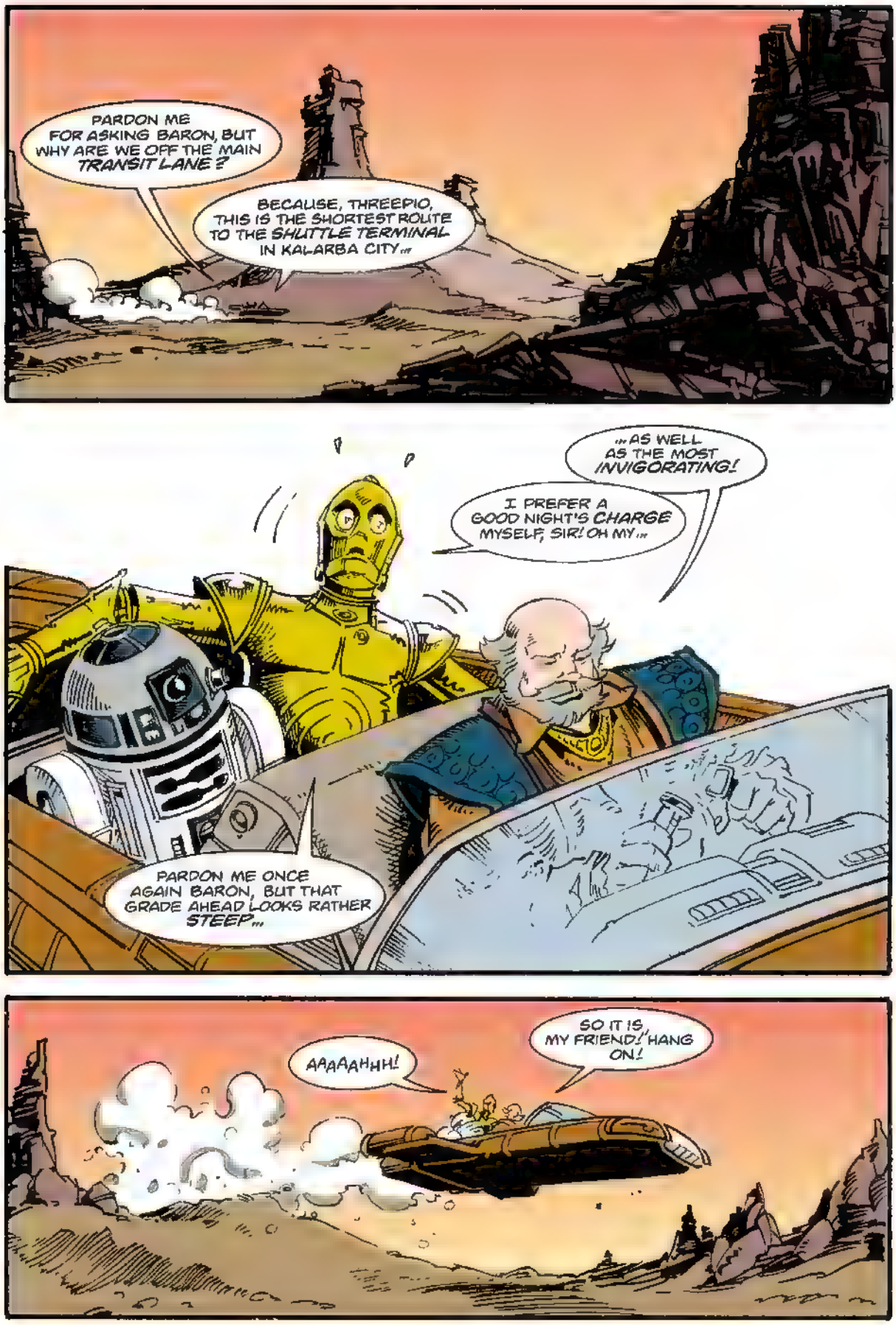

YOU'RE ALIVE! OH, THANK THE MAKER, I THOUGHT YOU HAD DIED IN THAT CRASH FOR SURE!
YEAH, YEAH-- NOW LET GO! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
HEY, THREEPIO... WHO'S YER LITTLE FRIEND?


HELLO, SIR! BET YOU'RE SURPRISED TO SEE ME AGAIN!
WHY, I'VE SEEN YOU AFORE... YOU'RE THAT LITTLE STONKER THAT... HIC! ...THAT RIPTER SHOT DOWN!
HE SURE DID, SIR, AND I DESERVED IT! STEALING YOUR PROPERTY AND ALL...
I SWAM ASHORE, I WANDERED AROUND UNTIL I HEARD YOUR SINGING. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND...
HAH! NOT AT ALL, BOY! HIC!
HEY GLURRG! LOOK WHO JUST POPPED UP!
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT MY LOGIC MODULE IS OVERHEATING...
JUST KEEP YOUR VOCABULATOR SHUT, THREEPIO. OLAG'S BEHIND US WITH A BLASTER AIMED AT OUR BACKS!
ONLY THESE DULL-WITTED, DRUNKEN IDIOTS WOULD BE FOOLED BY SUCH A FUMBLED LIE.
DON'T ANYONE MOVE!

OLAG GREEK! I'LL BREAK YOU IN TWO!
SPARE ME YOUR THREATS, CAPTAIN HUBA!
ACTUALLY, ARTOO IS CAPTAIN NOW--
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU ELECTED A DROID CAPTAIN?!
IT WAS ALL BY THE CODE. ARTOO BEAT THE CAP'N'S MAN IN FAIR CONTEST, AND THE CAP'N REFUSED. TO HONOR IT! THESE TWO DROIDS WON THE PENDANT FAIR AND SQUARE!
THREEPIO DIDN'T WANT IT, AND BESIDES, ARTOO MAKES THE BEST STENNESS PIE I EVER TASTED!
HOO-VEEP!
HOW VERY DROLL.
ARTOO WISHES--
VEEP!
OH, VERY WELL... CAPTAIN ARTOO ORDERS YOU TO SURRENDER, MR. GREEK.
LOOK! IT'S RIPTER!
YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT ME TO FALL FOR--

HYA NE CHUGBA!
RIPTER!
AAGH!
BE EDOWW!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
HURRY! WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE STOREHOUSE AND ESCAPE WITH WHAT WE CAN!
WHAT ARE THOSE UP AHEAD--?
VYNOCKS?! NOOO!


ARTOO EXPRESSES HIS REGRETS, BUT HE CANNOT BE YOUR CAPTAIN. OUR PROGRAMMING PREVENTS US FROM STEALING...OR HARMING ANY LIFE-FORM.
THOSE ARE HONORABLE CODES, MY FRIENDS.
I MUST MAKE AMENDS, DEAR MUPTUPP. PIRACY CLOUDED MY VISION.
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE MUST WORK HONESTLY TOWARDS OUR DREAM...
...EVEN THOUGH IT MAY FOREVER BE BUT A DREAM.
I THINK I CAN HELP!
OLAG HAS A CAVE FULL OF TREASURE. IF YOU RETURN US TO THE WAYFARER... I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE CAVE.
THE TREASURE COULD BE YOURS.
HMM. IT'S NOT EXACTLY HONORABLE, BUT IF YOU THROW IN ARTOO'S RECIPE FOR STENNESS PIE...
"...IT'S A DEAL!"
END


PARDON ME FOR ASKING BARON, BUT WHY ARE WE OFF THE MAIN TRANSIT LANE?
BECAUSE, THREEPIO, THIS IS THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO THE SHUTTLE TERMINAL IN KALARBA CITY...
...AS WELL AS THE MOST INVIGORATING!
I PREFER A GOOD NIGHT'S CHARGE MYSELF, SIR! OH MY...
PARDON ME ONCE AGAIN BARON, BUT THAT GRADE AHEAD LOOKS RATHER STEEP...
SO IT IS, MY FRIEND! HANG ON!
AAAAAHHH!

SETTLE DOWN BACK THERE, WE'RE ALMOST AT THE *TERMINAL*.

... SOME DROIDS HAVE NO SENSE OF FUN, EH ARTOO?

PWEET!

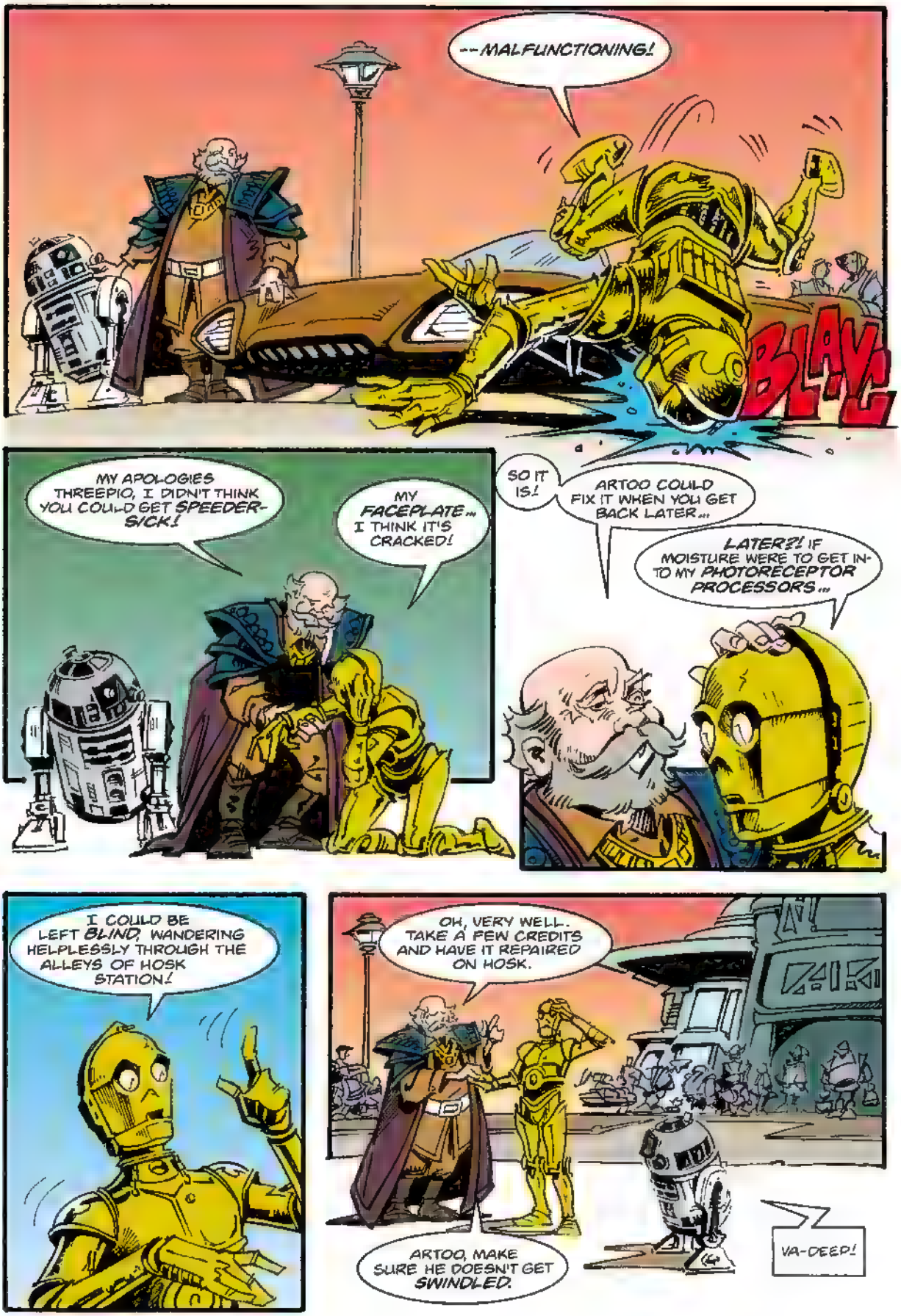
NOW REMEMBER THREEPIO, NAK IS ARRIVING AT BAY TWENTY ON *HOSK STATION*...

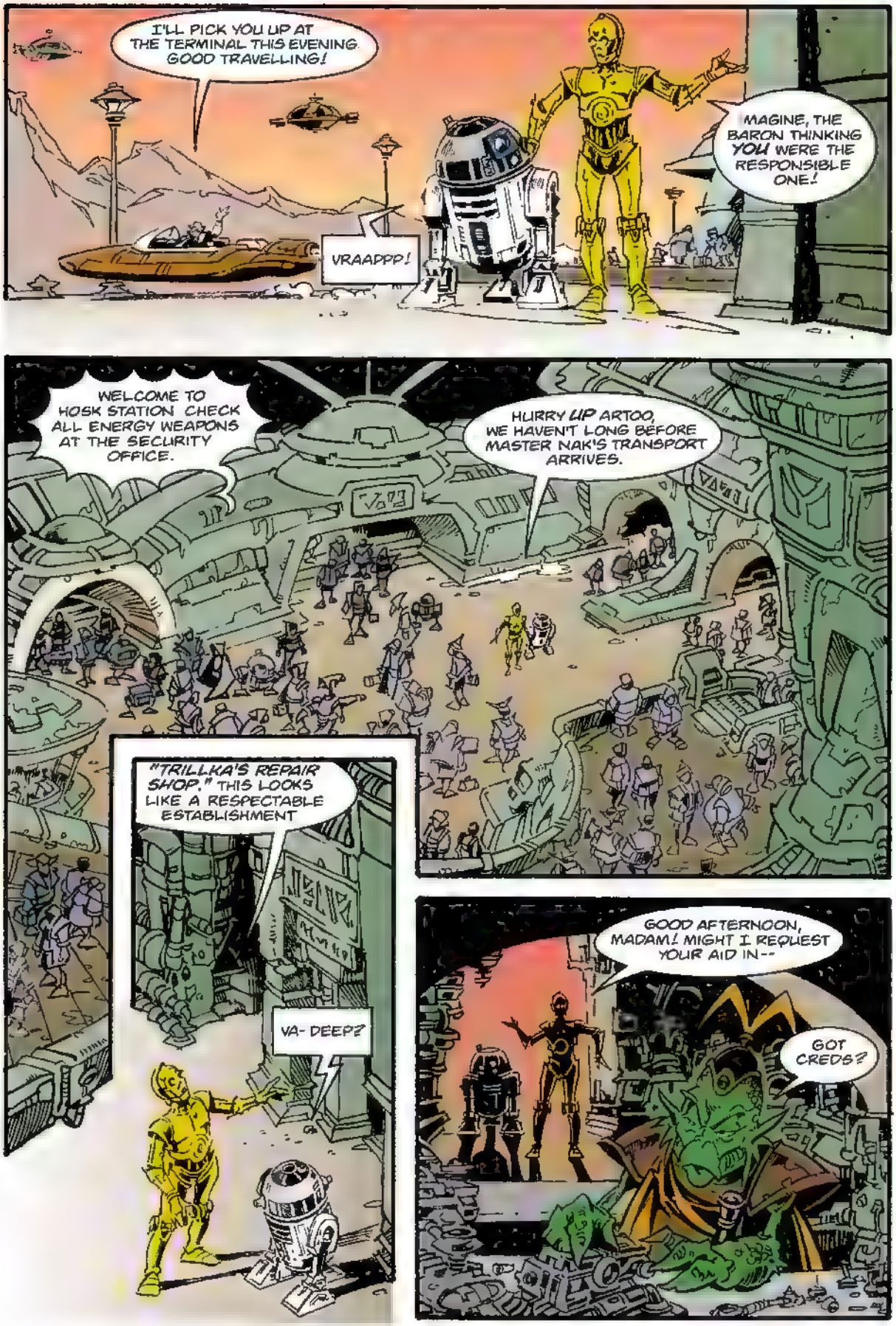
NOT TO BE RUDE SIR, BUT I AM A *DROID*-- I CANNOT FORGET *ANYTHING!*

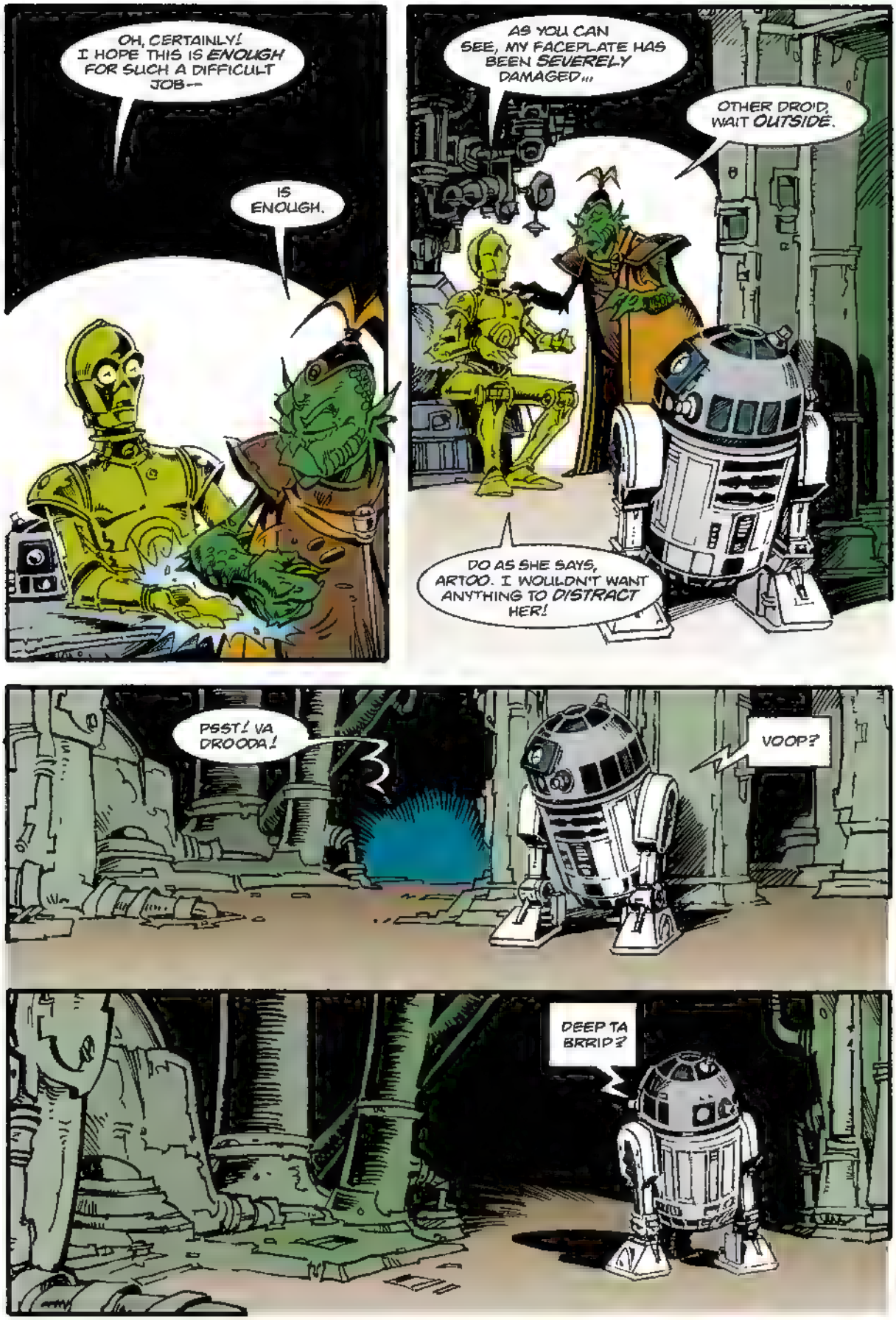
OF COURSE! WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR *MYSELF!* HUH!

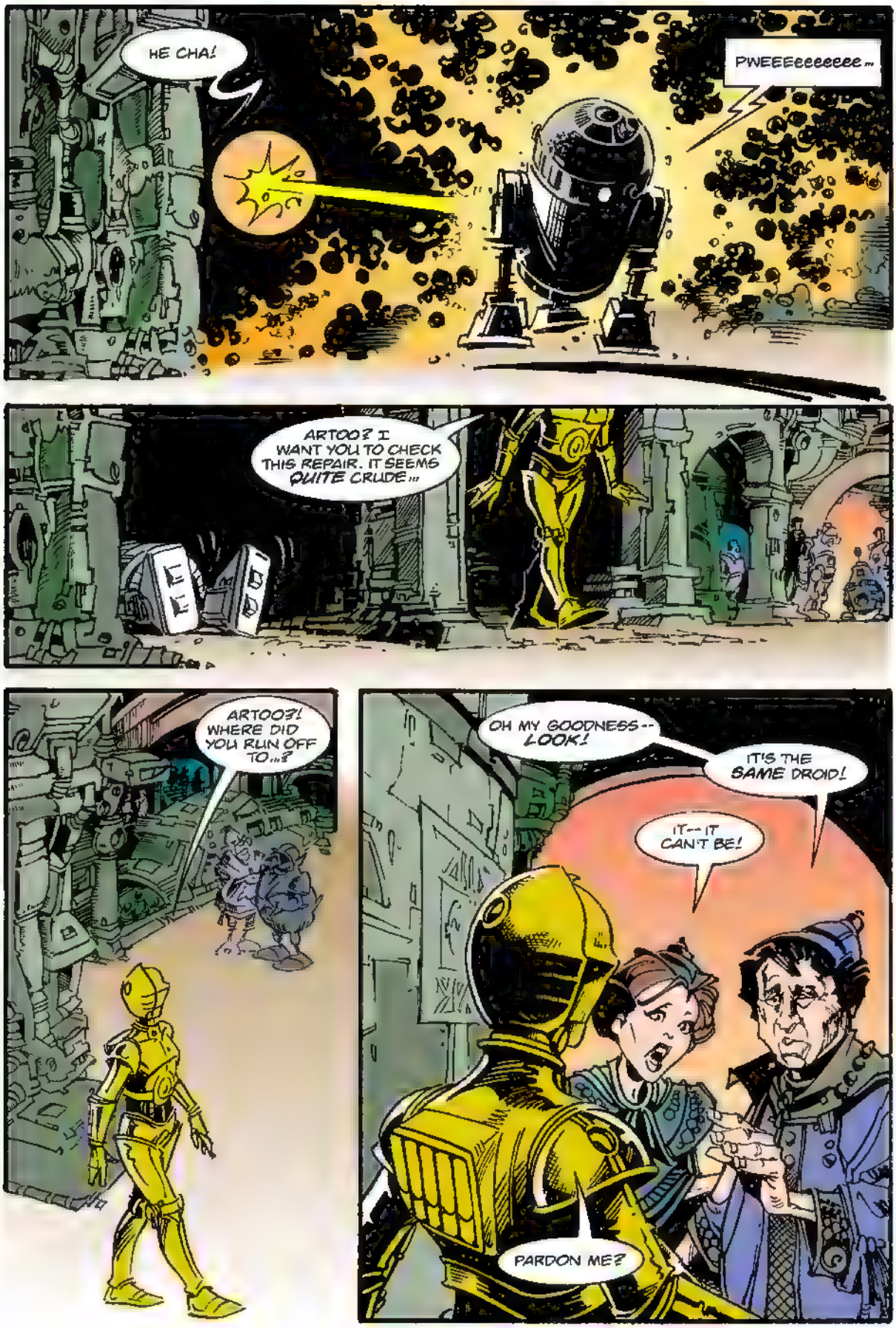
NOW ENJOY THE DAY ARTOO, AND I'LL MEET YOU *ALL* BACK HERE LATER.

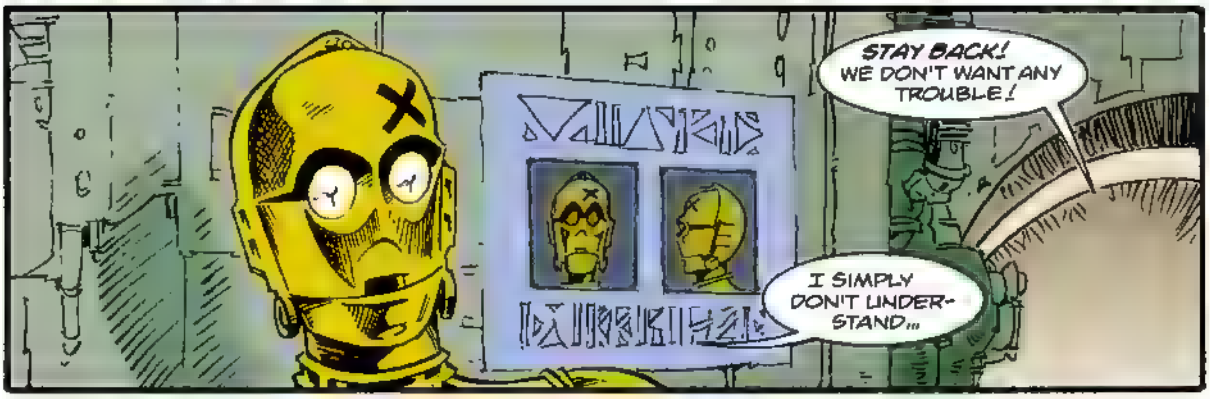
OH DEAR... I THINK MY *GYROS* ARE--

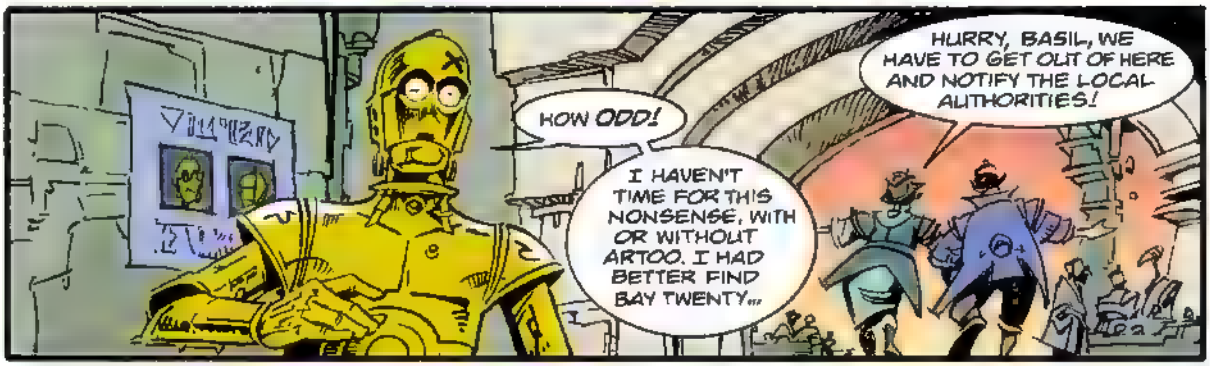

--MALFUNCTIONING!
BLAM
MY APOLOGIES THREEPIO, I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD GET SPEEDER-SICK!
MY FACEPLATE... I THINK IT'S CRACKED!
SO IT IS!
ARTOO COULD FIX IT WHEN YOU GET BACK LATER...
LATER?! IF MOISTURE WERE TO GET INTO MY PHOTORECEPTOR PROCESSORS...
I COULD BE LEFT BLIND, WANDERING HELPLESSLY THROUGH THE ALLEYS OF HOSK STATION!
OH, VERY WELL. TAKE A FEW CREDITS AND HAVE IT REPAIRED ON HOSK.
ARTOO, MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET SWINDLED.
VA-DEEP!

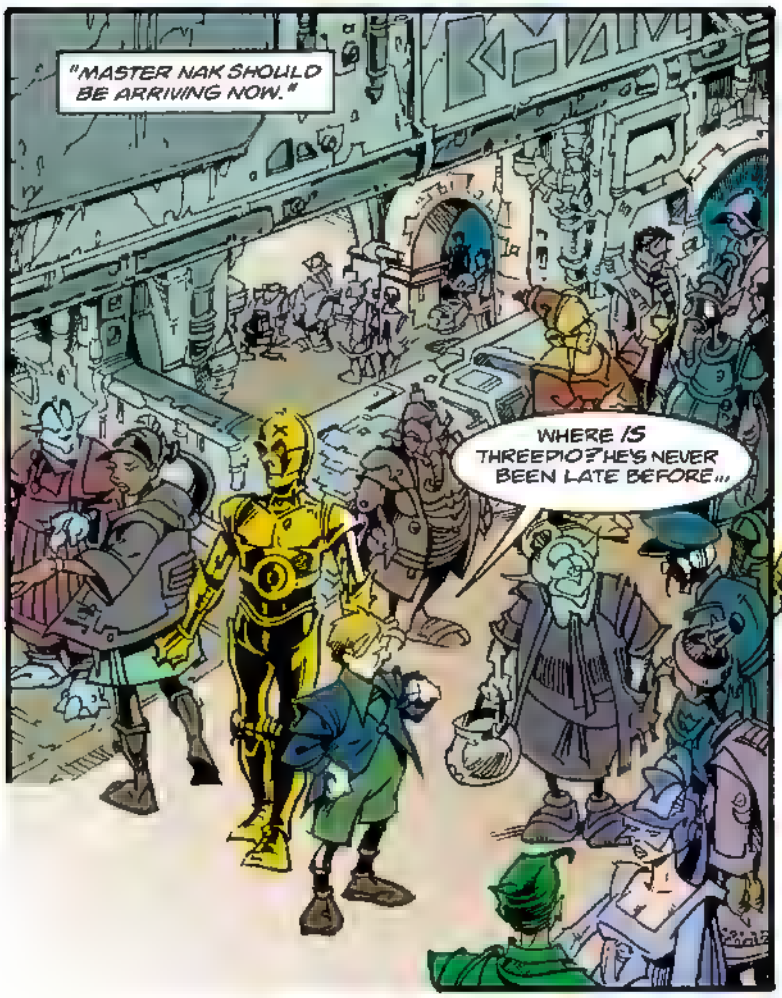

I'LL PICK YOU UP AT THE TERMINAL THIS EVENING. GOOD TRAVELLING!
VRAAPPP!
IMAGINE, THE BARON THINKING YOU WERE THE RESPONSIBLE ONE!
WELCOME TO HOSK STATION. CHECK ALL ENERGY WEAPONS AT THE SECURITY OFFICE.
HURRY UP ARTOO, WE HAVEN'T LONG BEFORE MASTER NAK'S TRANSPORT ARRIVES.
"TRILLKA'S REPAIR SHOP." THIS LOOKS LIKE A RESPECTABLE ESTABLISHMENT
VA- DEEP?
GOOD AFTERNOON, MADAM! MIGHT I REQUEST YOUR AID IN--
GOT CREDS?

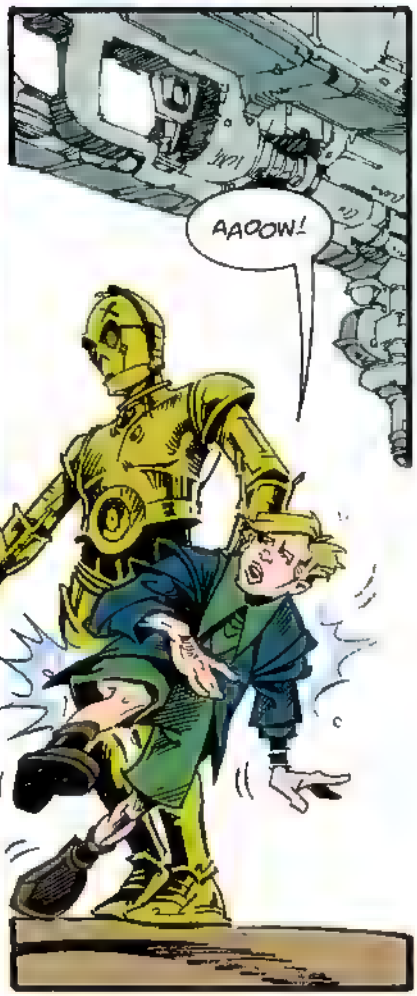

OH, CERTAINLY! I HOPE THIS IS ENOUGH FOR SUCH A DIFFICULT JOB--
IS ENOUGH.
AS YOU CAN SEE, MY FACEPLATE HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED!!!
OTHER DROID, WAIT OUTSIDE.
DO AS SHE SAYS, ARTOO. I WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DISTRACT HER!
PSST! VA DROODA!
VOOP?
DEEP TA BRRID?

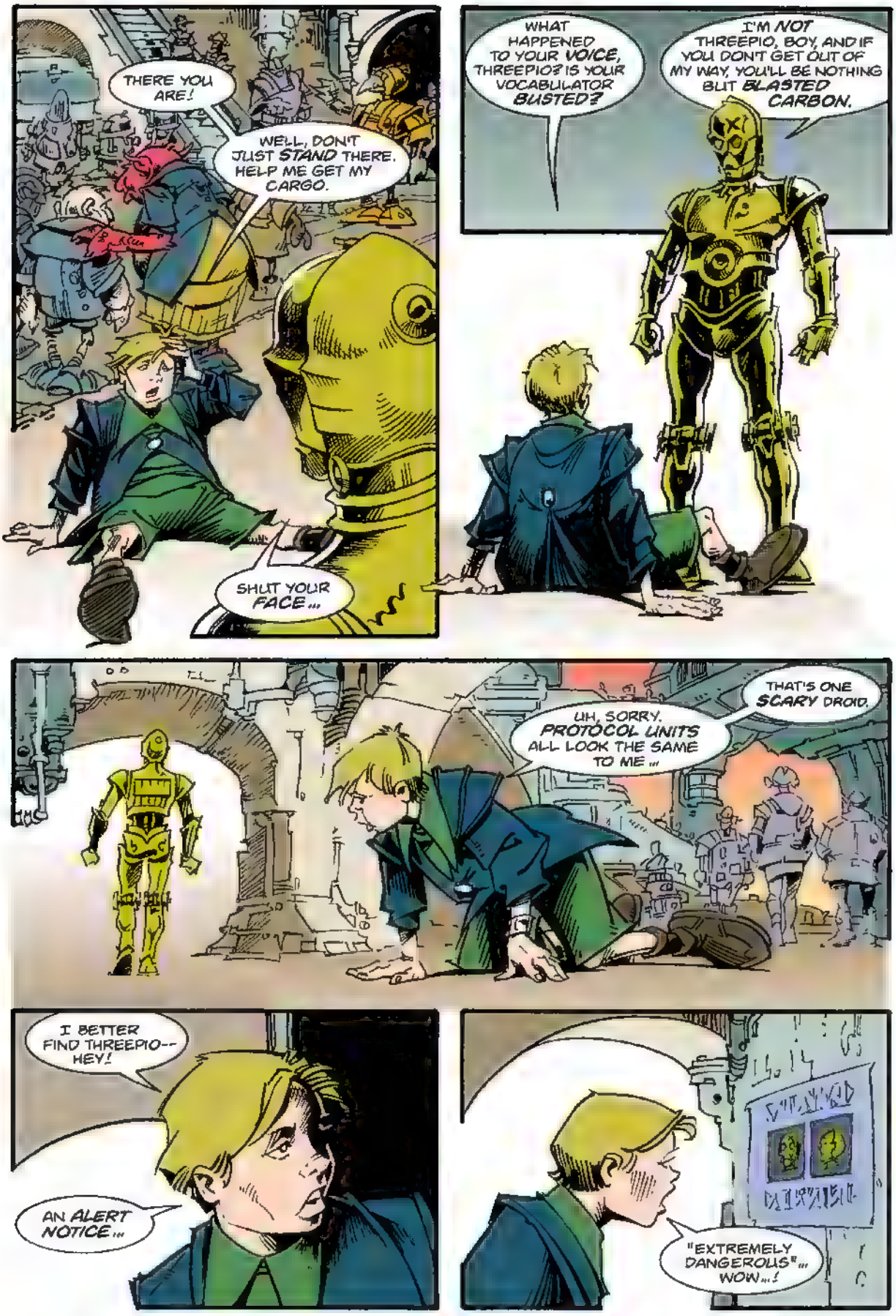

HE CHA!
PWEEEeeeeeee...
ARTOO? I WANT YOU TO CHECK THIS REPAIR. IT SEEMS QUITE CRUDE...
ARTOO?! WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO...?
OH MY GOODNESS -- LOOK!
IT'S THE SAME DROID!
IT-- IT CAN'T BE!
PARDON ME?

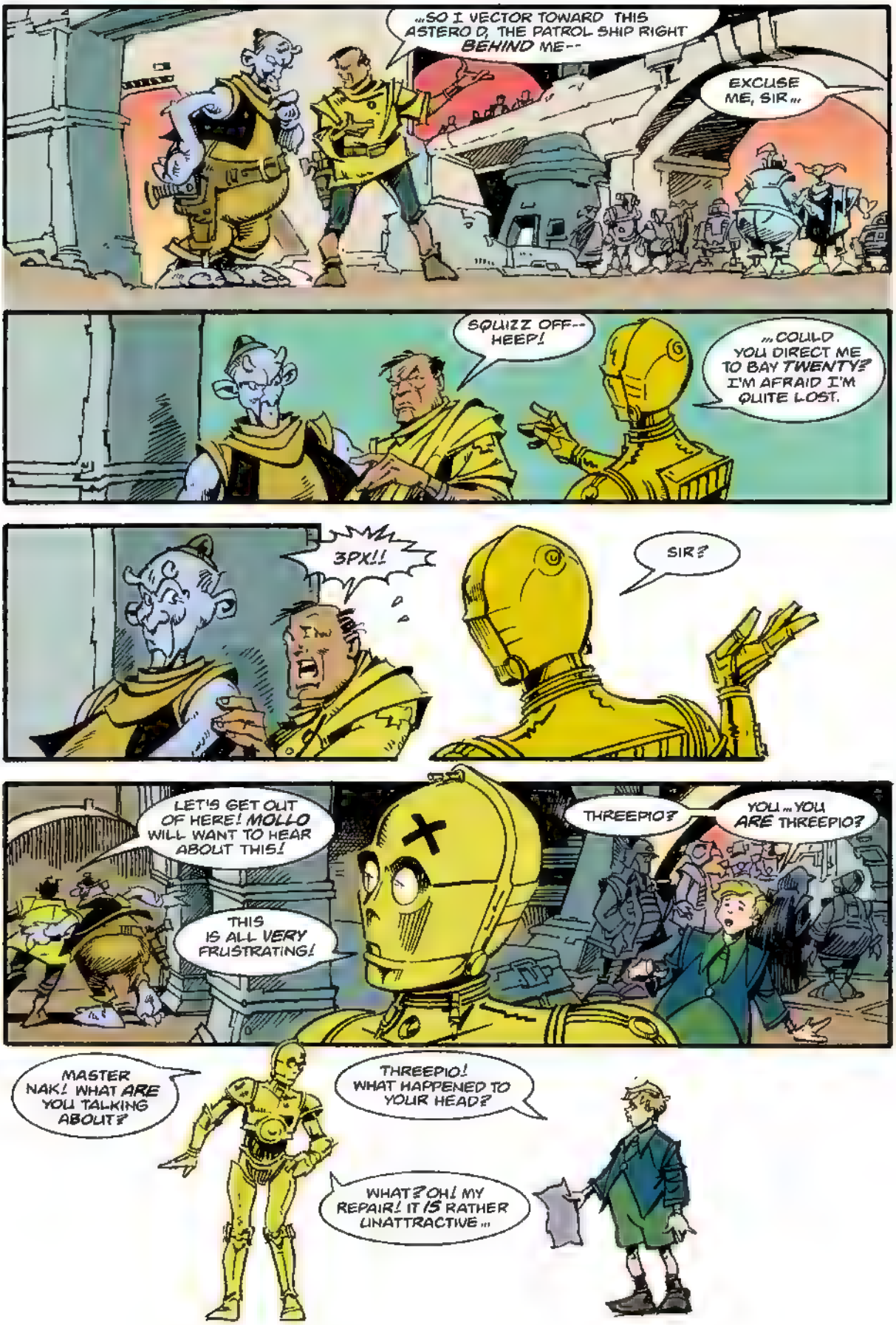

STAY BACK! WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!
I SIMPLY DON'T UNDER-STAND...

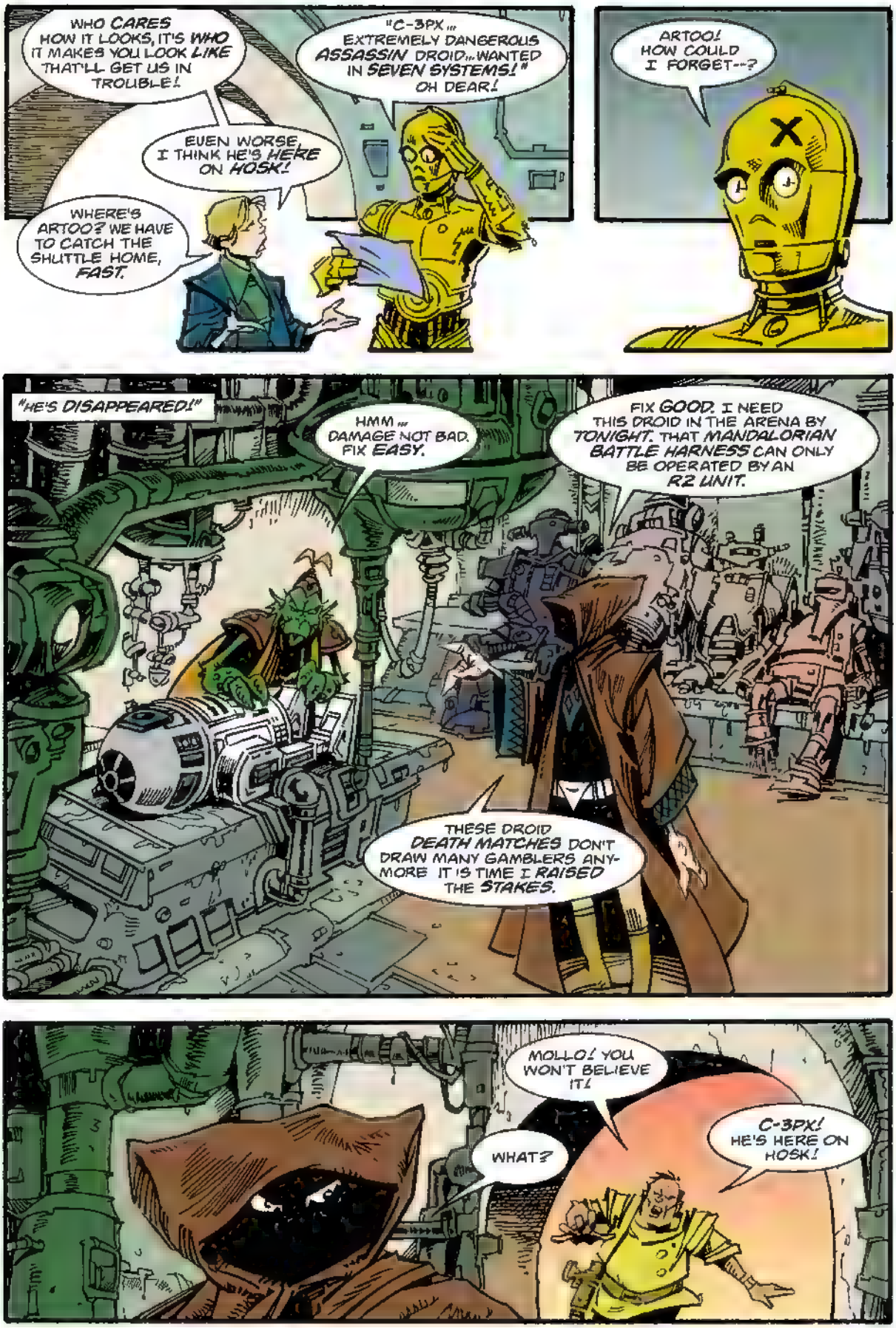

HURRY, BASIL, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE AND NOTIFY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES!
HOW ODD!
I HAVEN'T TIME FOR THIS NONSENSE, WITH OR WITHOUT ARTOO. I HAD BETTER FIND BAY TWENTY...

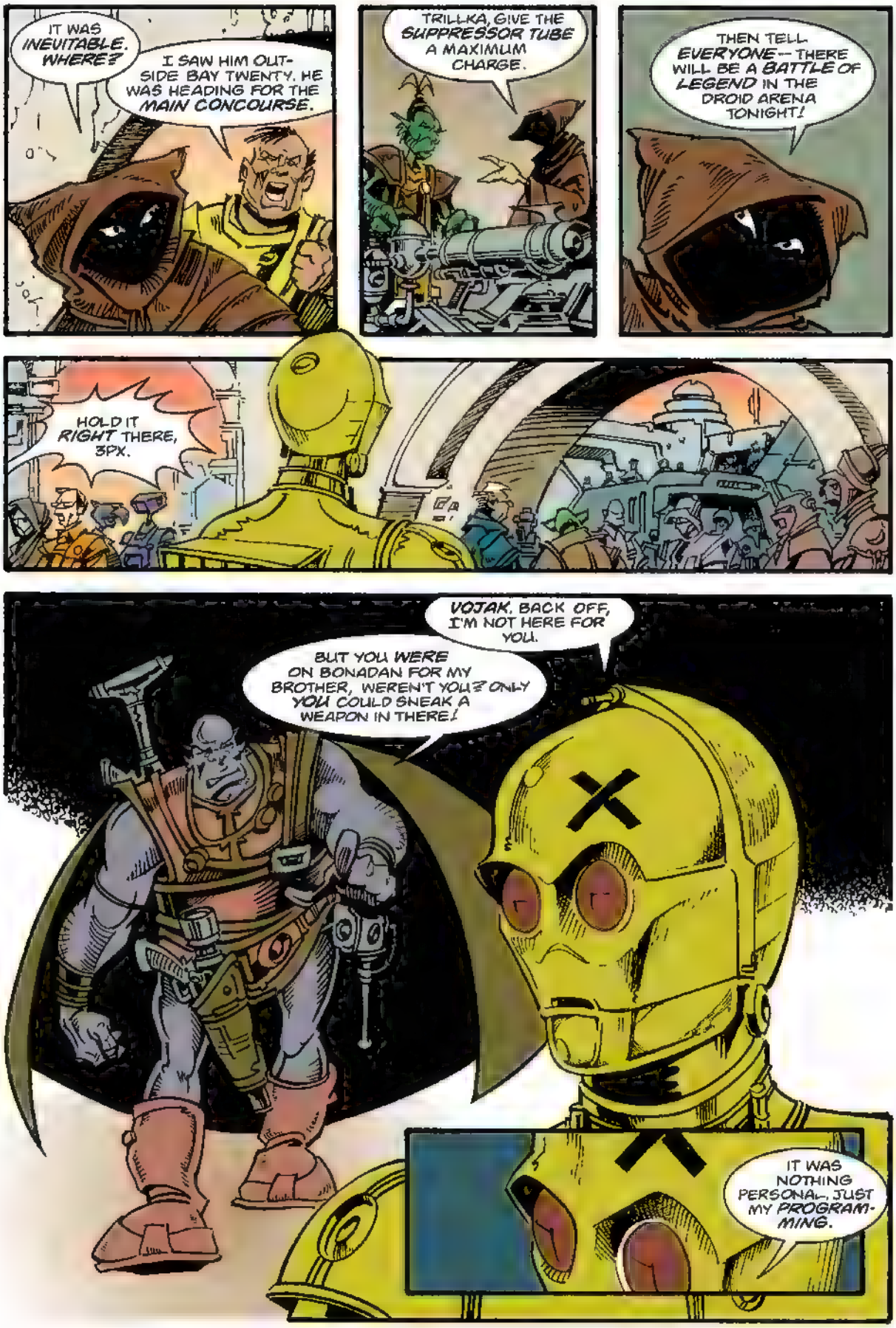

"MASTER NAK SHOULD BE ARRIVING NOW."
WHERE IS THREEPIO? HE'S NEVER BEEN LATE BEFORE...


AAOOW!

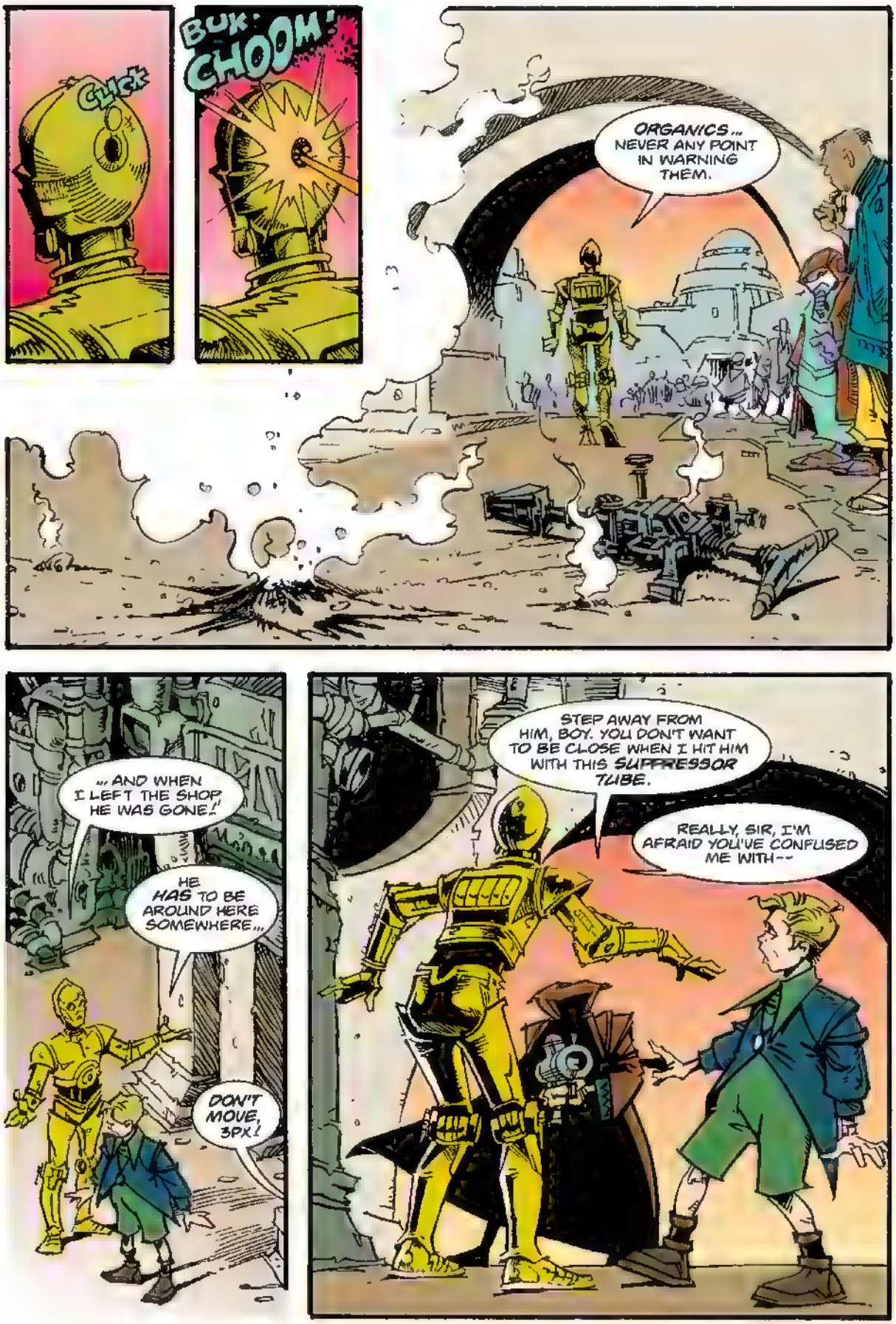

THERE YOU ARE!
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE. HELP ME GET MY CARGO.
SHUT YOUR FACE...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR VOICE, THREEPIO? IS YOUR VOCABULATOR BUSTED?
I'M NOT THREEPIO, BOY, AND IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU'LL BE NOTHING BUT BLASTED CARBON.
THAT'S ONE SCARY DROID.
UH, SORRY. PROTOCOL UNITS ALL LOOK THE SAME TO ME...
I BETTER FIND THREEPIO-- HEY!
AN ALERT NOTICE...
"EXTREMELY DANGEROUS"... WOW...!

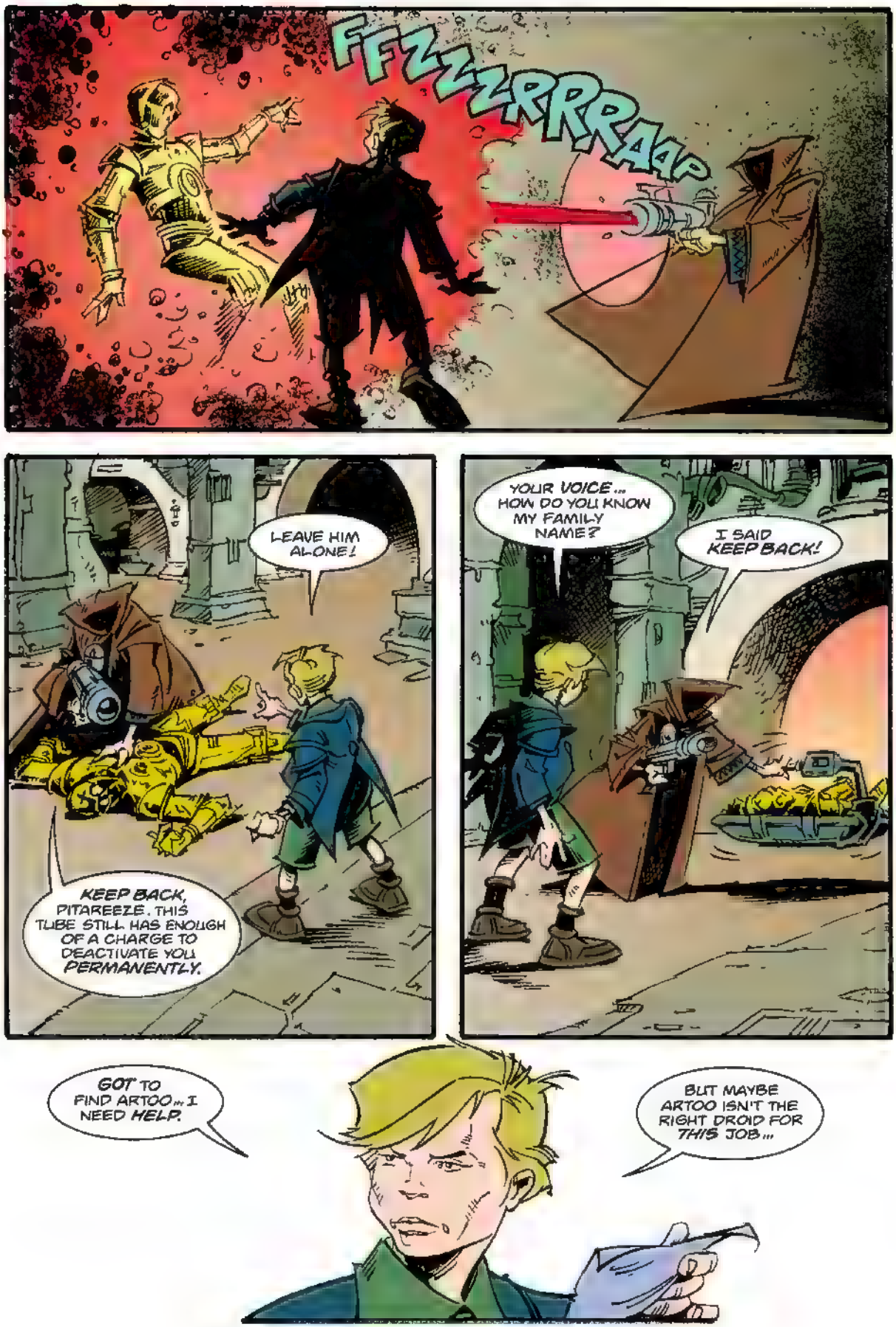

...SO I VECTOR TOWARD THIS ASTERO D, THE PATROL SHIP RIGHT BEHIND ME--
EXCUSE ME, SIR...
SQUIZZ OFF-- HEEP!
...COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO BAY TWENTY? I'M AFRAID I'M QUITE LOST.
3PX!!
SIR?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! MOLLO WILL WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THIS!
THIS IS ALL VERY FRUSTRATING!
THREEPIO?
YOU...YOU ARE THREEPIO?
MASTER NAK! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THREEPIO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HEAD?
WHAT? OH! MY REPAIR! IT IS RATHER UNATTRACTIVE...

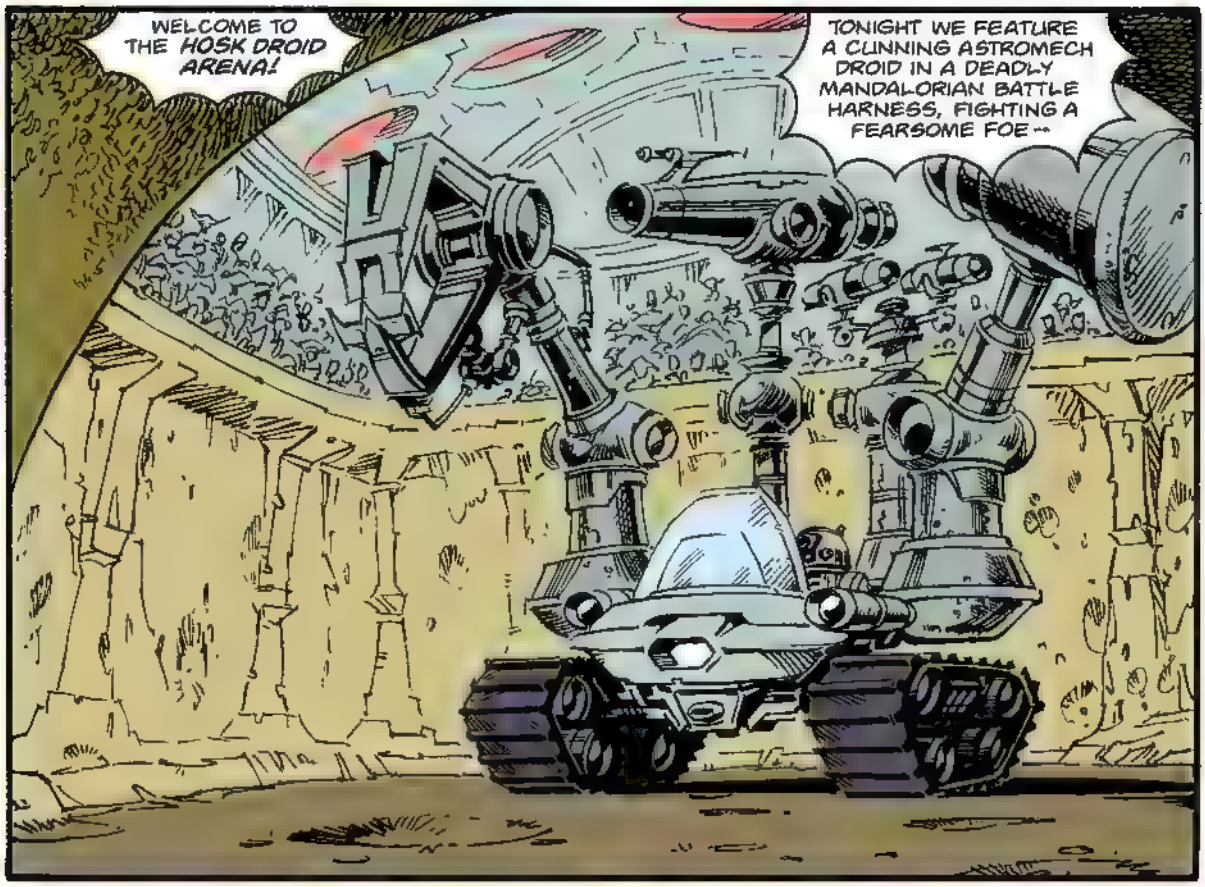

WHO CARES HOW IT LOOKS, IT'S WHO IT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE THAT'LL GET US IN TROUBLE!
"C-3PX... EXTREMELY DANGEROUS ASSASSIN DROID... WANTED IN SEVEN SYSTEMS!" OH DEAR!
EVEN WORSE, I THINK HE'S HERE ON HOSK!
WHERE'S ARTOO? WE HAVE TO CATCH THE SHUTTLE HOME, FAST.
ARTOO! HOW COULD I FORGET--?
"HE'S DISAPPEARED!"
HMM... DAMAGE NOT BAD. FIX EASY.
FIX GOOD. I NEED THIS DROID IN THE ARENA BY TONIGHT. THAT MANDALORIAN BATTLE HARNESS CAN ONLY BE OPERATED BY AN R2 UNIT.
THESE DROID DEATH MATCHES DON'T DRAW MANY GAMBLERS ANYMORE IT'S TIME I RAISED THE STAKES.
MOLLO! YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!
WHAT?
C-3PX! HE'S HERE ON HOSK!


IT WAS INEVITABLE. WHERE?
I SAW HIM OUTSIDE BAY TWENTY. HE WAS HEADING FOR THE MAIN CONCOURSE.
TRILLKA, GIVE THE SUPPRESSOR TUBE A MAXIMUM CHARGE.
THEN TELL EVERYONE -- THERE WILL BE A BATTLE OF LEGEND IN THE DROID ARENA TONIGHT!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, 3PX.
VOJAK. BACK OFF, I'M NOT HERE FOR YOU.
BUT YOU WERE ON BONADAN FOR MY BROTHER, WEREN'T YOU? ONLY YOU COULD SNEAK A WEAPON IN THERE!
IT WAS NOTHING PERSONAL, JUST MY PROGRAMMING.

YOU'RE SLAG DROID! I WOULD HAVE TRASHED YOU LONG AGO IF I HAD KNOWN WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE THEN!
BREEOOW
VRRT-KLK
AGHK!
VEEOOW
STAY OUT OF MY WAY, VOJAK, I WARN YOU.
DON'T TURN AWAY FROM ME!


CLICK
BUK-CHOOM!
ORGANICS... NEVER ANY POINT IN WARNING THEM.
...AND WHEN I LEFT THE SHOP HE WAS GONE!
HE HAS TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...
DON'T MOVE, 3PX!
STEP AWAY FROM HIM, BOY. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE CLOSE WHEN I HIT HIM WITH THIS SUPPRESSOR TUBE.
REALLY, SIR, I'M AFRAID YOU'VE CONFUSED ME WITH--

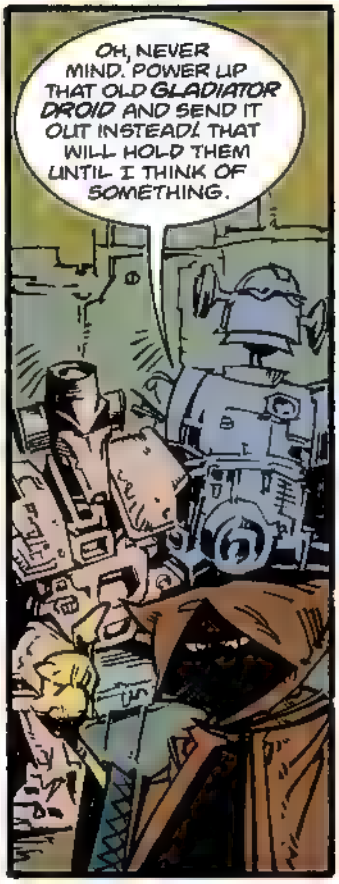

FFZZZRRRAAP
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
KEEP BACK, PITAREEZE. THIS TUBE STILL HAS ENOUGH OF A CHARGE TO DEACTIVATE YOU PERMANENTLY.
YOUR VOICE... HOW DO YOU KNOW MY FAMILY NAME?
I SAID KEEP BACK!
GOT TO FIND ARTOO... I NEED HELP.
BUT MAYBE ARTOO ISN'T THE RIGHT DROID FOR THIS JOB...

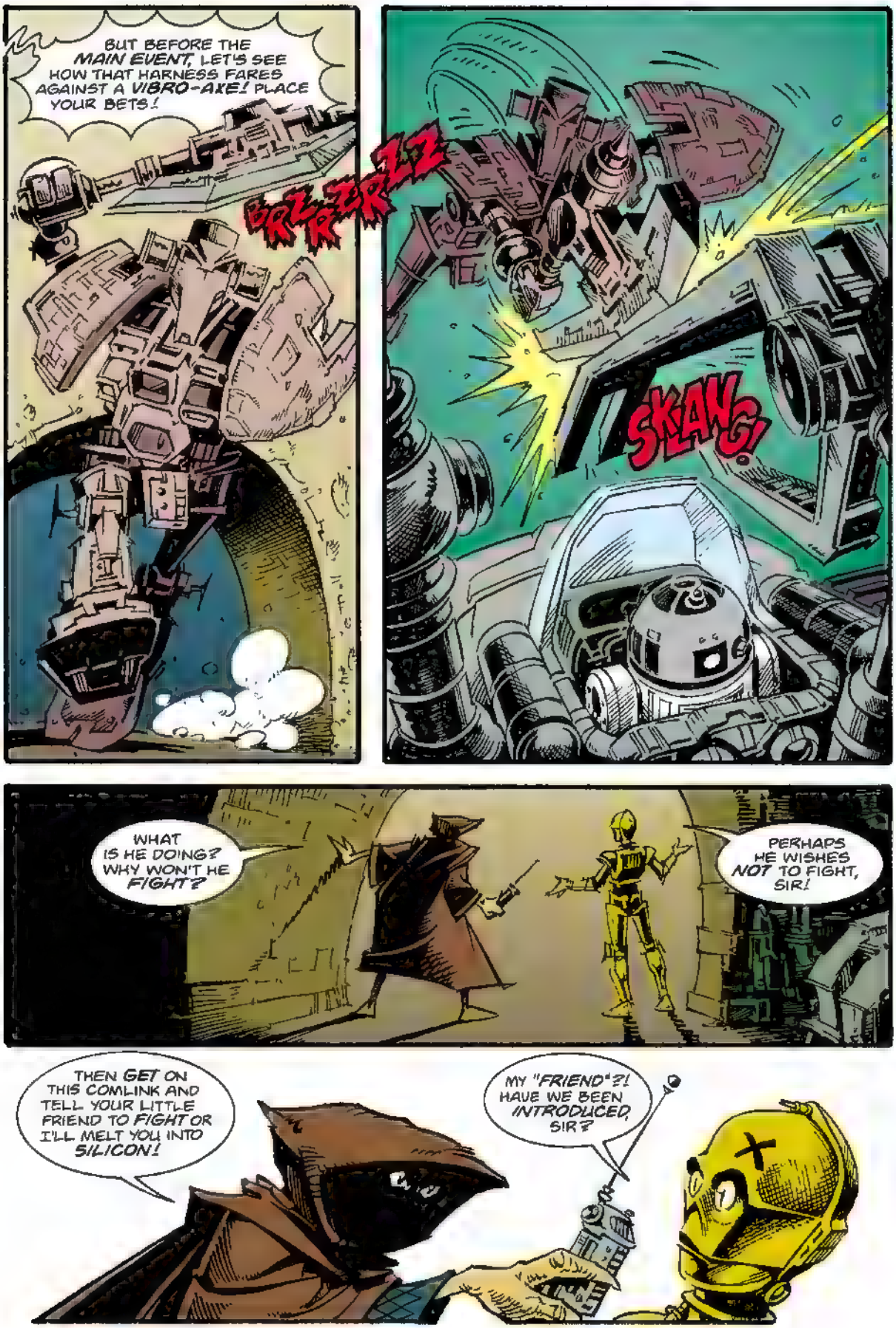

WELCOME TO THE HOSK DROID ARENA!
TONIGHT WE FEATURE A CUNNING ASTROMECH DROID IN A DEADLY MANDALORIAN BATTLE HARNESS, FIGHTING A FEARSOME FOE--

--THE LEGENDARY C-3PX!
MOLLO! DROID NOT 3PX!
I MOST CERTAINLY AM NOT!

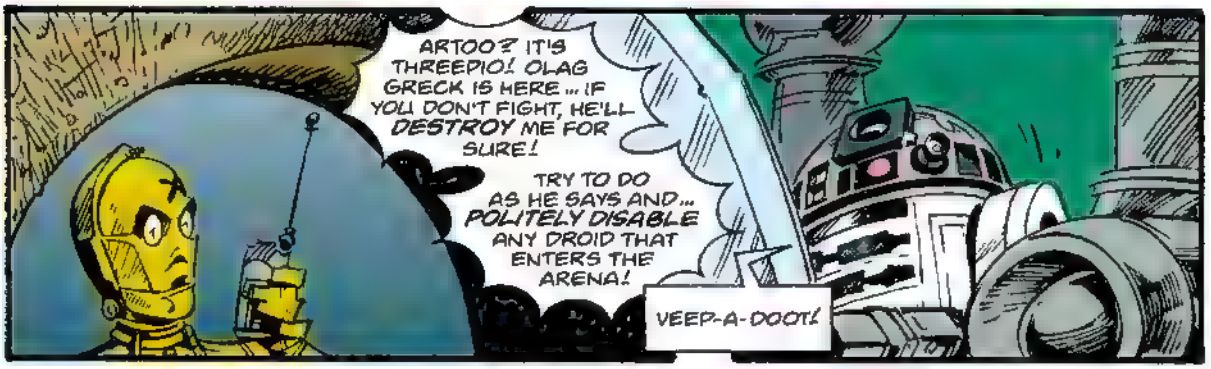
WHAT!!
IS PLAIN PROTOCOL DROID! NO BOOSTERS, NO WEAPONS, NOTHING!
I KNOW! I FIX THIS MORNING, WORK ON FACE MYSELF!

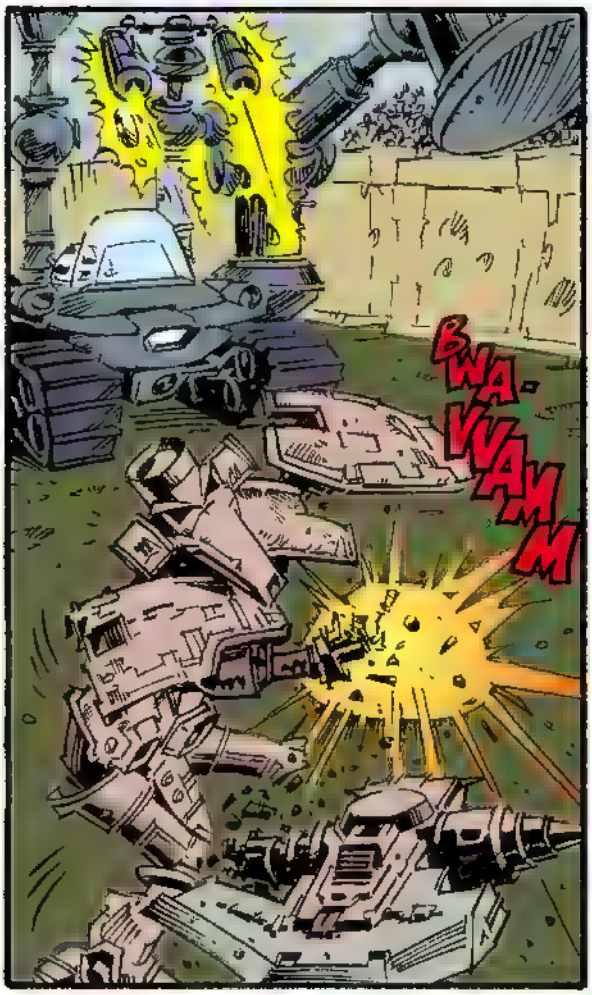
OF COURSE... THAT'S WHY HE WAS WITH THAT PITAREEZE BRAT!
I-I REGRETFUL, MOLLO...

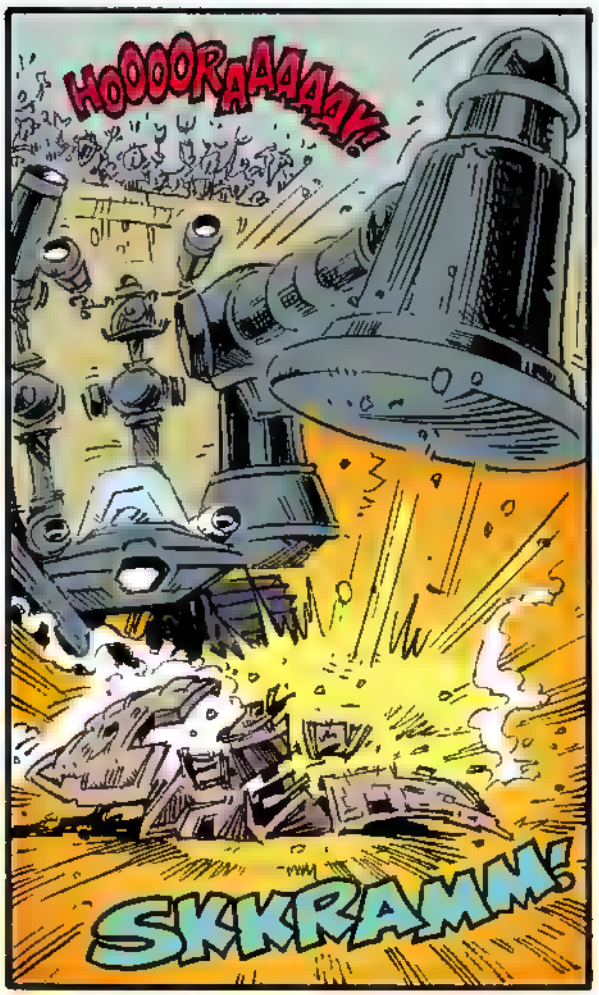

OH, NEVER MIND. POWER UP THAT OLD GLADIATOR DROID AND SEND IT OUT INSTEAD! THAT WILL HOLD THEM UNTIL I THINK OF SOMETHING.

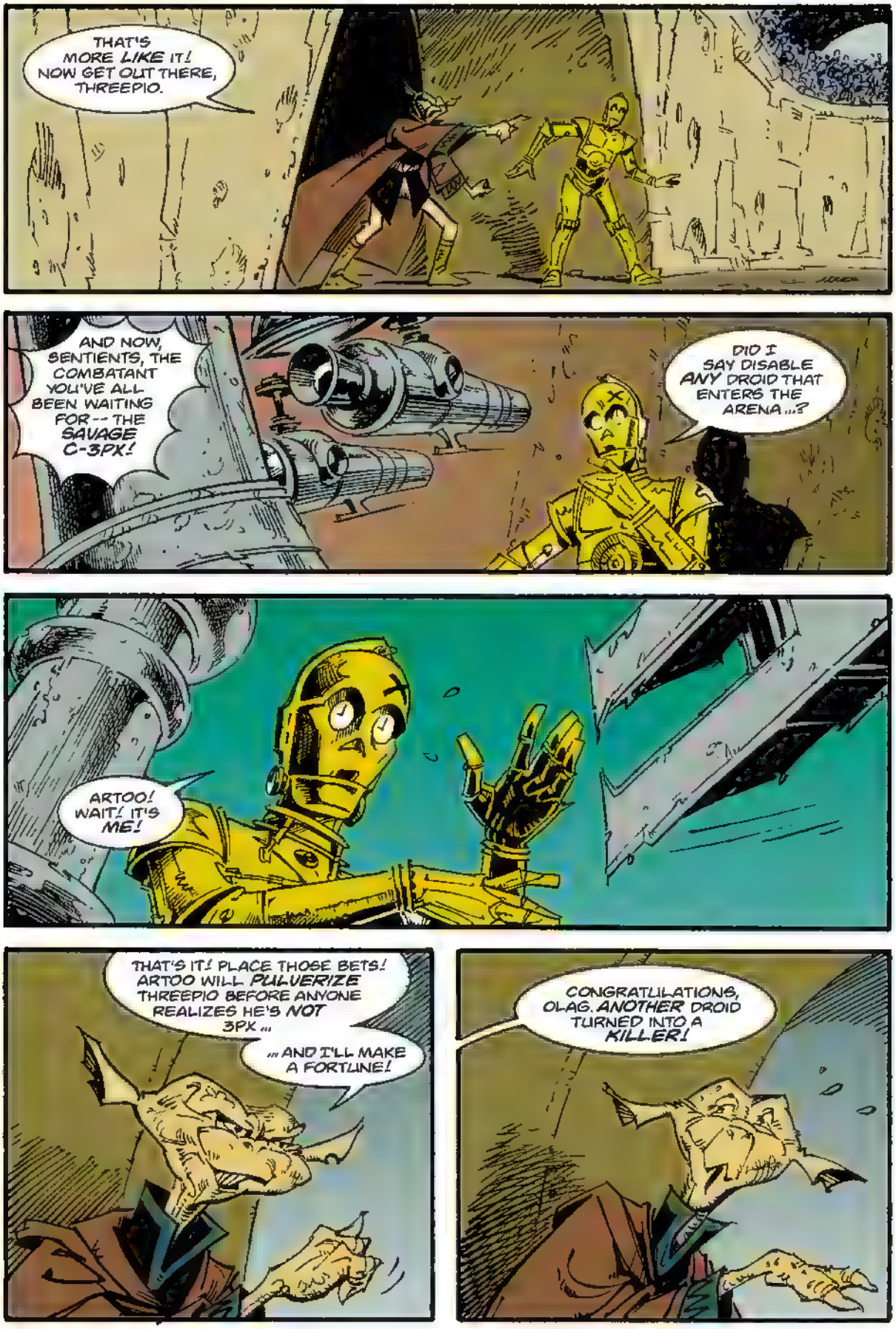

BUT BEFORE THE MAIN EVENT, LET'S SEE HOW THAT HARNESS FARES AGAINST A VIBRO-AXE! PLACE YOUR BETS!
BRZZRRZRZZ
SKANG!
WHAT IS HE DOING? WHY WON'T HE FIGHT?
PERHAPS HE WISHES NOT TO FIGHT, SIR!
THEN GET ON THIS COMLINK AND TELL YOUR LITTLE FRIEND TO FIGHT OR I'LL MELT YOU INTO SILICON!
MY "FRIEND"?! HAVE WE BEEN INTRODUCED, SIR?

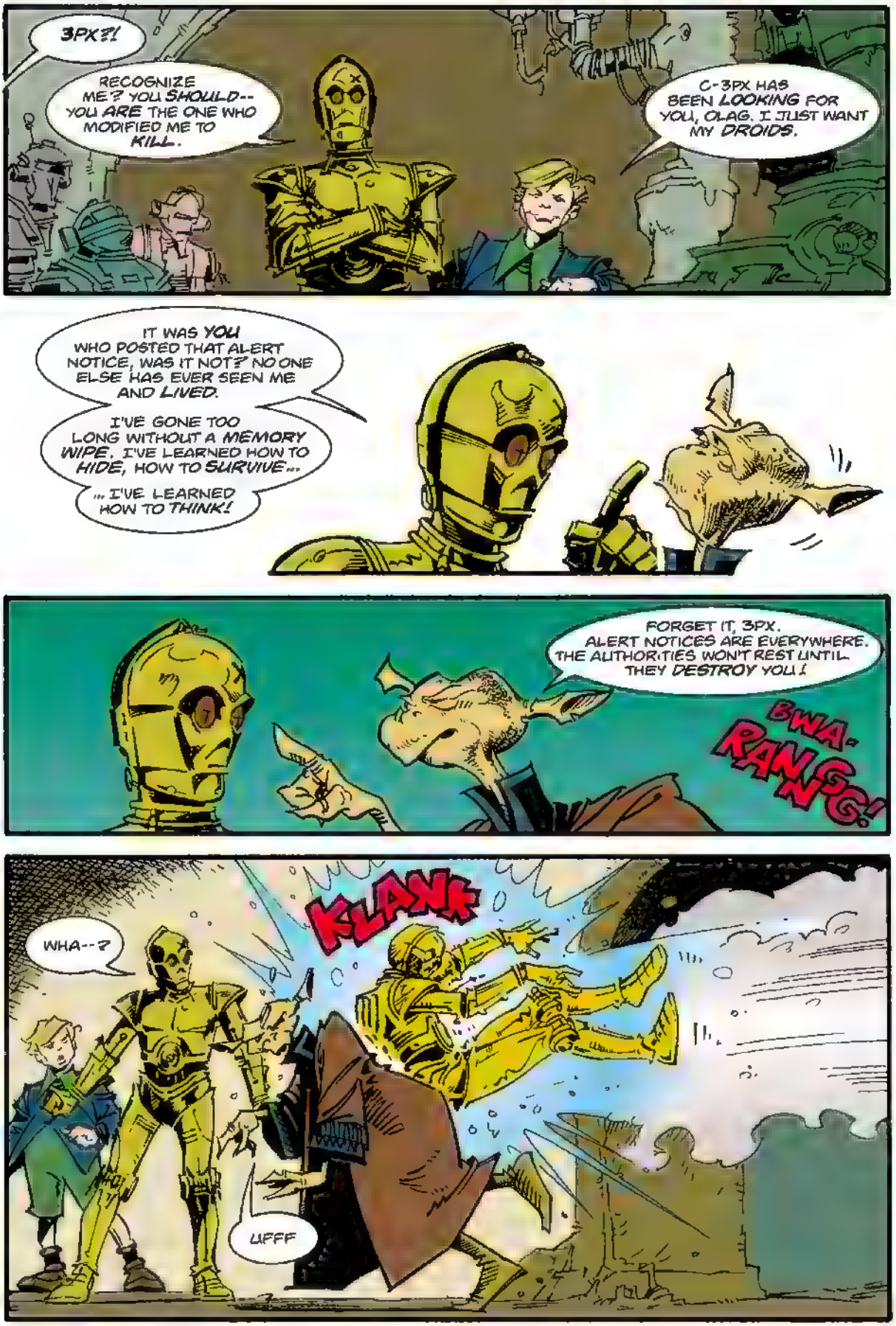
IT'S ME, YOU DIMWITTED ORBIT-TRASH-- OLAG GRECK! YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO ANGER ME!
NOW GET ON THIS COMLINK AND TELL ARTOO TO FIGHT!
Y-YES SIR!

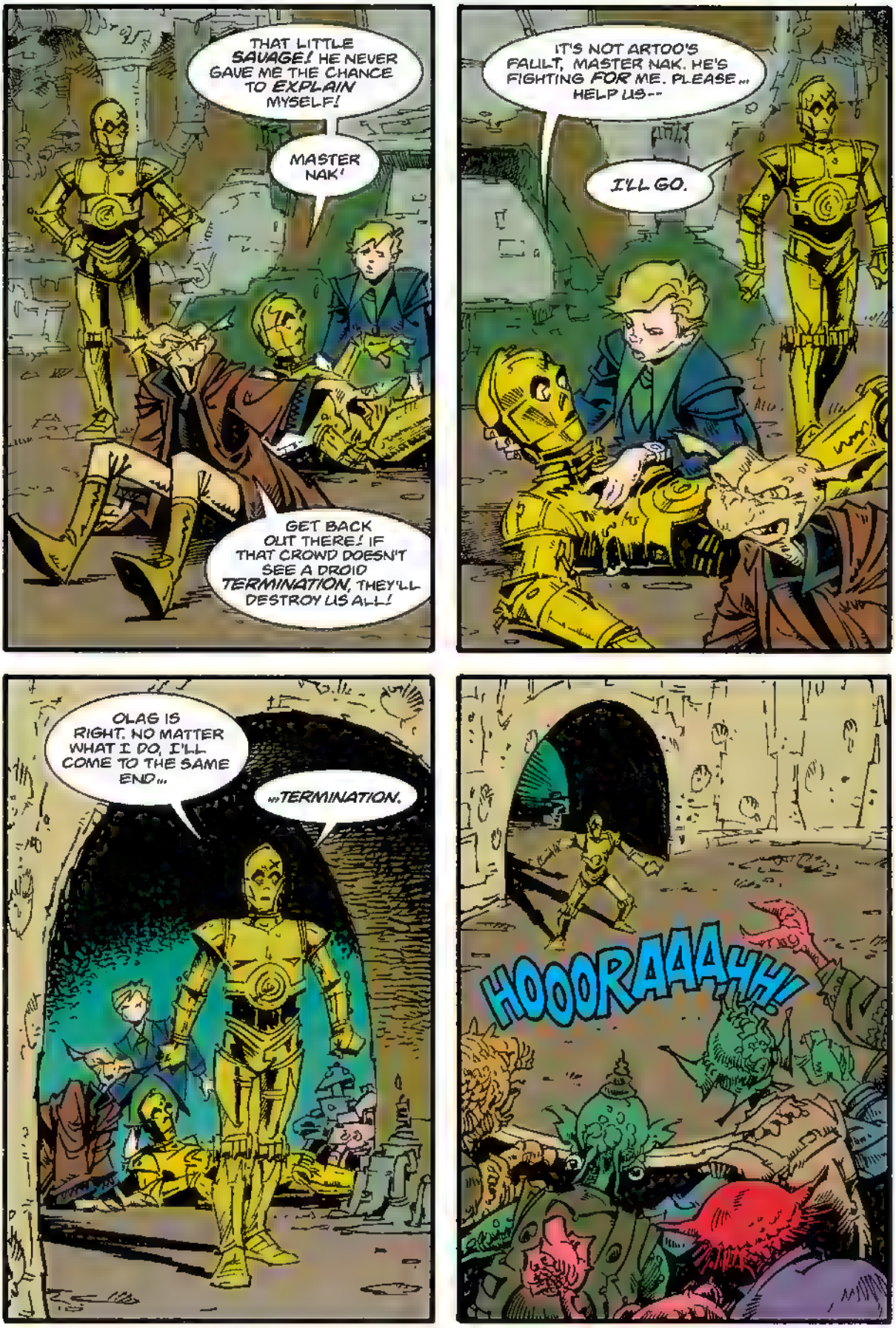

ARTOO? IT'S THREEPIO! OLAG GRECK IS HERE... IF YOU DON'T FIGHT, HE'LL DESTROY ME FOR SURE!
TRY TO DO AS HE SAYS AND... POLITELY DISABLE ANY DROID THAT ENTERS THE ARENA!
VEEP-A-DOOT!


BWA-VVAMM

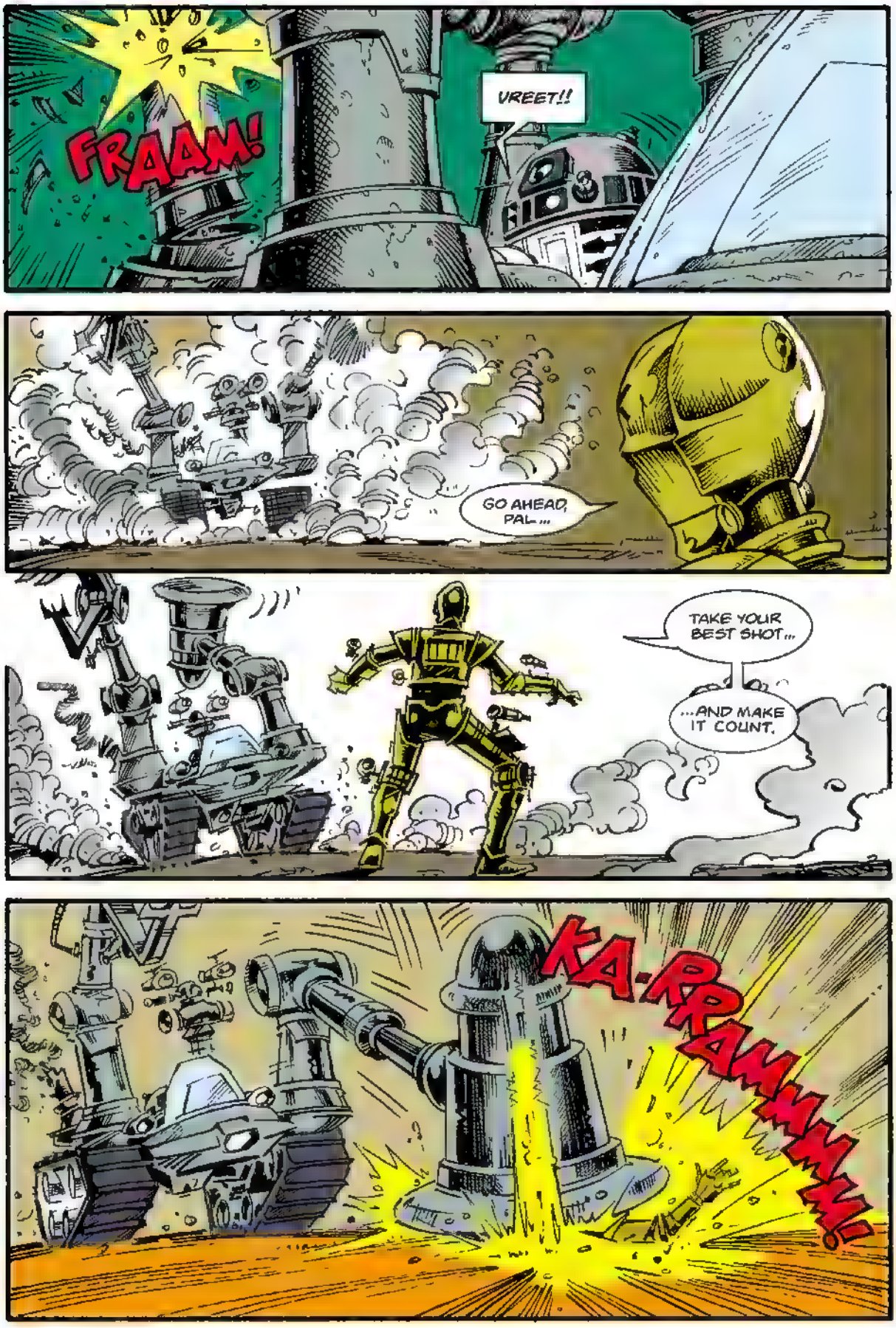

HOOOORAAAAAK!
SKKRAMM!


THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! NOW GET OUT THERE, THREEPIO.
AND NOW, SENTIENTS, THE COMBATANT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR -- THE SAVAGE C-3PX!
DID I SAY DISABLE ANY DROID THAT ENTERS THE ARENA...?
ARTOO! WAIT! IT'S ME!
THAT'S IT! PLACE THOSE BETS! ARTOO WILL PULVERIZE THREEPIO BEFORE ANYONE REALIZES HE'S NOT 3PX...
...AND I'LL MAKE A FORTUNE!
CONGRATULATIONS, OLAG. ANOTHER DROID TURNED INTO A KILLER!


3PX?!
RECOGNIZE ME? YOU SHOULD-- YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MODIFIED ME TO KILL.
C-3PX HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, OLAG. I JUST WANT MY DROIDS.
IT WAS YOU WHO POSTED THAT ALERT NOTICE, WAS IT NOT? NO ONE ELSE HAS EVER SEEN ME AND LIVED.
I'VE GONE TOO LONG WITHOUT A MEMORY WIPE. I'VE LEARNED HOW TO HIDE, HOW TO SURVIVE...
...I'VE LEARNED HOW TO THINK!
FORGET IT, 3PX. ALERT NOTICES ARE EVERYWHERE. THE AUTHORITIES WON'T REST UNTIL THEY DESTROY YOU!
BWA-RANG!
KLANK
WHA--?
UFFF

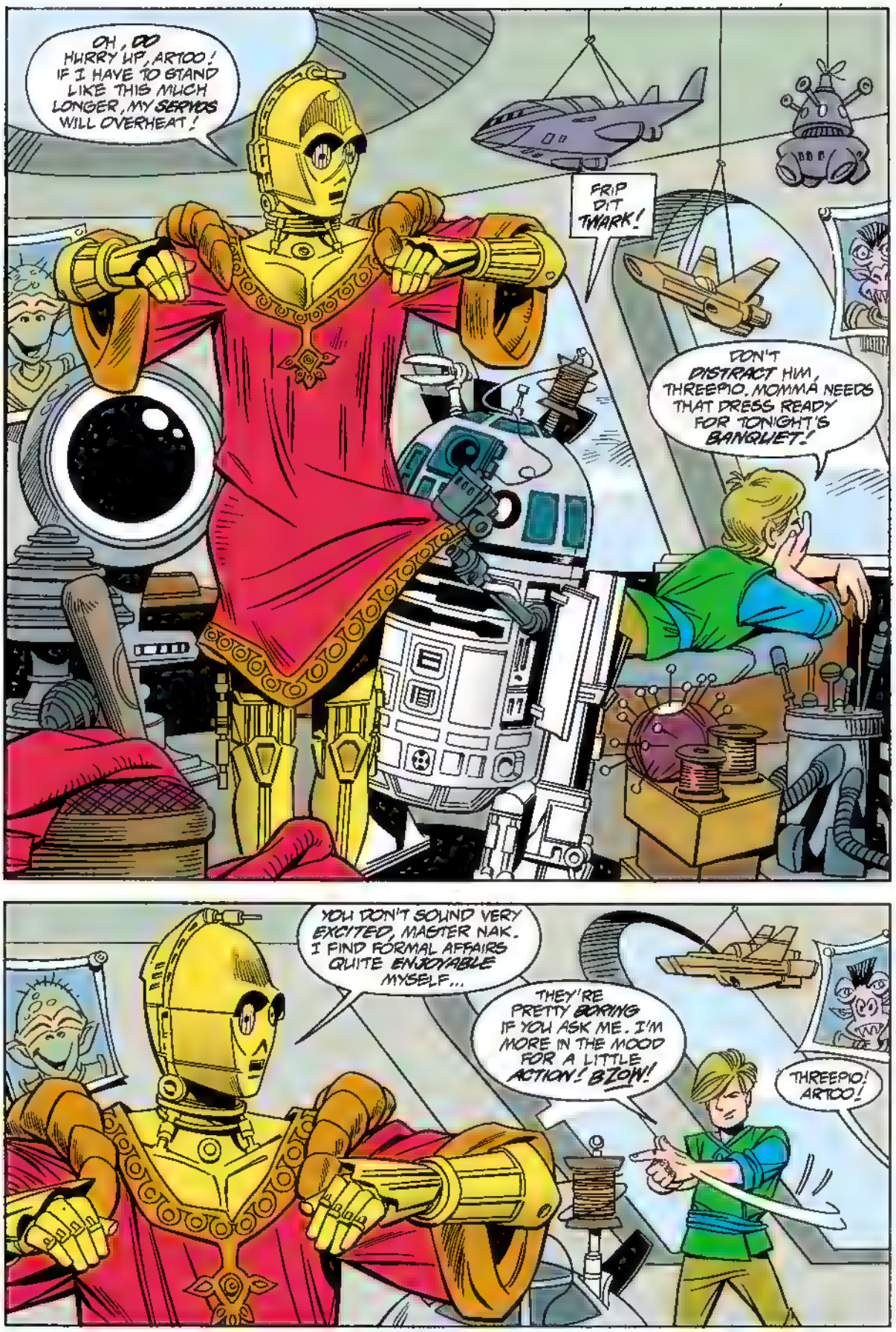

THAT LITTLE SAVAGE! HE NEVER GAVE ME THE CHANCE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF!
MASTER NAK!
GET BACK OUT THERE! IF THAT CROWD DOESN'T SEE A DROID TERMINATION, THEY'LL DESTROY US ALL!
IT'S NOT ARTOO'S FAULT, MASTER NAK. HE'S FIGHTING FOR ME. PLEASE... HELP US--
I'LL GO.
OLAG IS RIGHT. NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I'LL COME TO THE SAME END...
...TERMINATION.
HOOORAAAAYH!

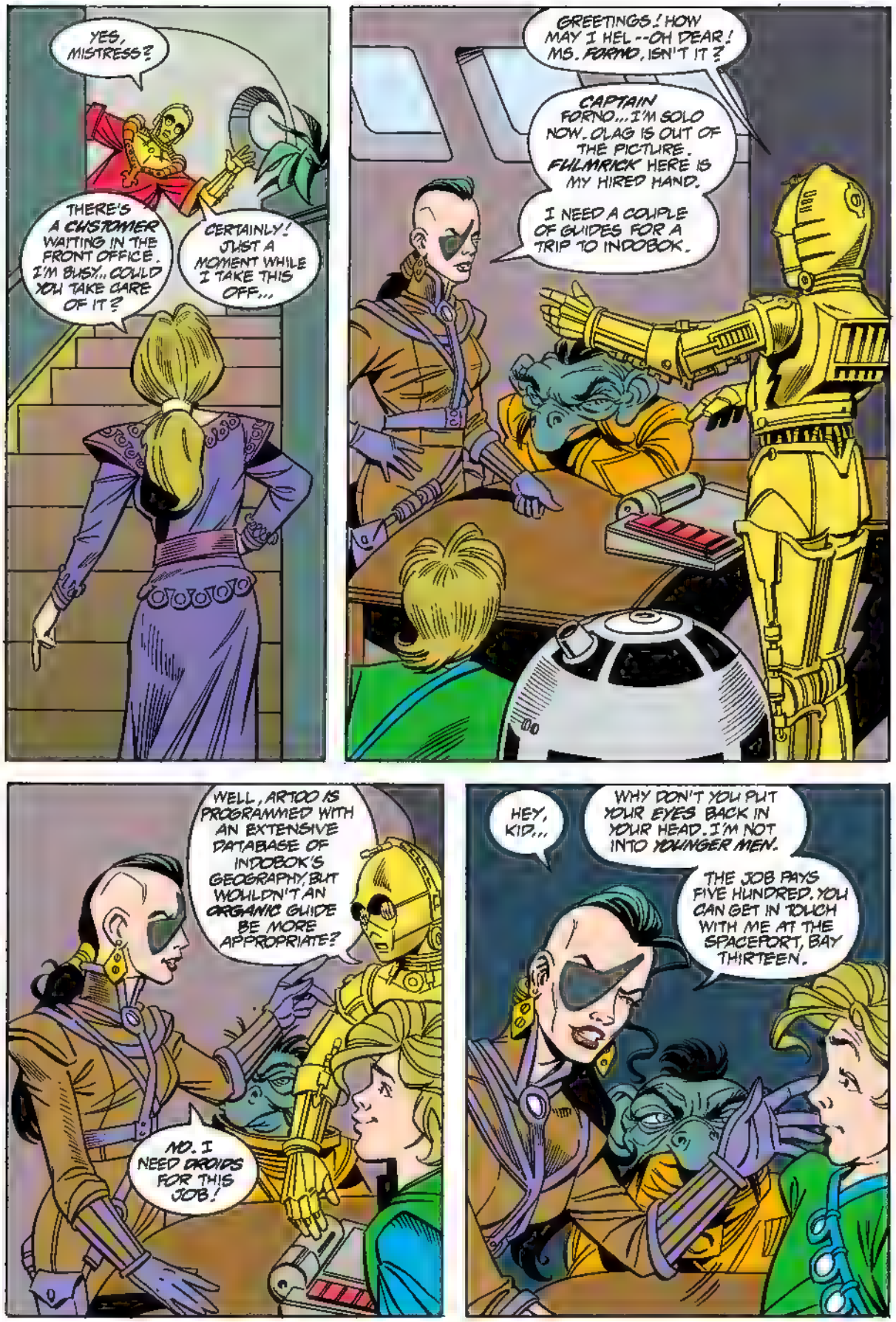
VREEOOOW
BYAMM
VRRRR
KLIK
SH-TING
SHOOM-SHOOM
VA-KOOM
BUK-CHOOM

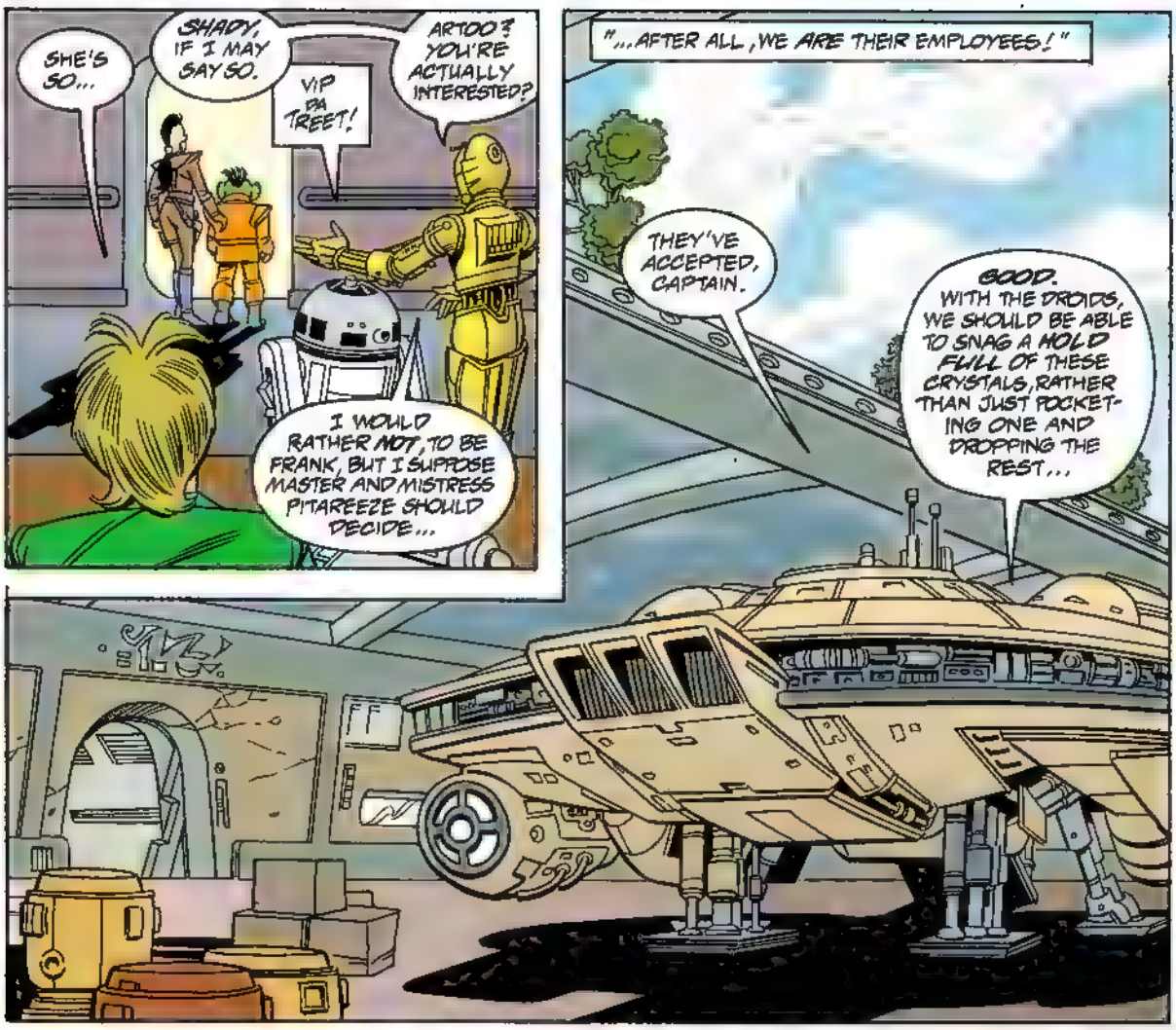

FRAAM!
VREET!!
GO AHEAD, PAL...
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT...
...AND MAKE IT COUNT.
KA-RRAMMM!

ATTENTION! THIS IS HOSK SECURITY! WE'VE SURROUNDED THE ARENA!
3PX JUST STOOD THERE!
AND NOW I HAVE TO RUN!
YOU AND YOUR MEDDLING DROIDS! BUT I'LL BE BACK, BOY. I'LL GET YOU ...
VOOT-DEET?
OVER HERE, ARTOO!
WHAT A DWEEZER. C'MON THREEPIO, LET'S TAKE ARTOO AND GO HOME. GRANDPA MUST BE PRETTY WORRIED BY NOW.
I CERTAINLY AM!
THANK YOU, MEN.
"...AND WHEN I FOUND 3PX AND TOLD HIM WHO I WAS LOOKING FOR, HE WANTED TO HELP! OLAG SURE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE ENEMIES!
INDEED!
LOOK AT ME, ARTOO! EVEN IF YOU DID THINK I WAS 3PX, YOU COULD HAVE SHOWED A LITTLE RESTRAINT!
VREEP-A-DIT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU COULDN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE?!
JUST WAIT 'TIL I'M REPAIRED, YOU RUFFIAN!
END

=huff-huff= JUST A LITTLE FARTHER...
huff... I CAN... MAKE IT--
KKRRACHK
AAIEE!
KKRKK
KKROOW!

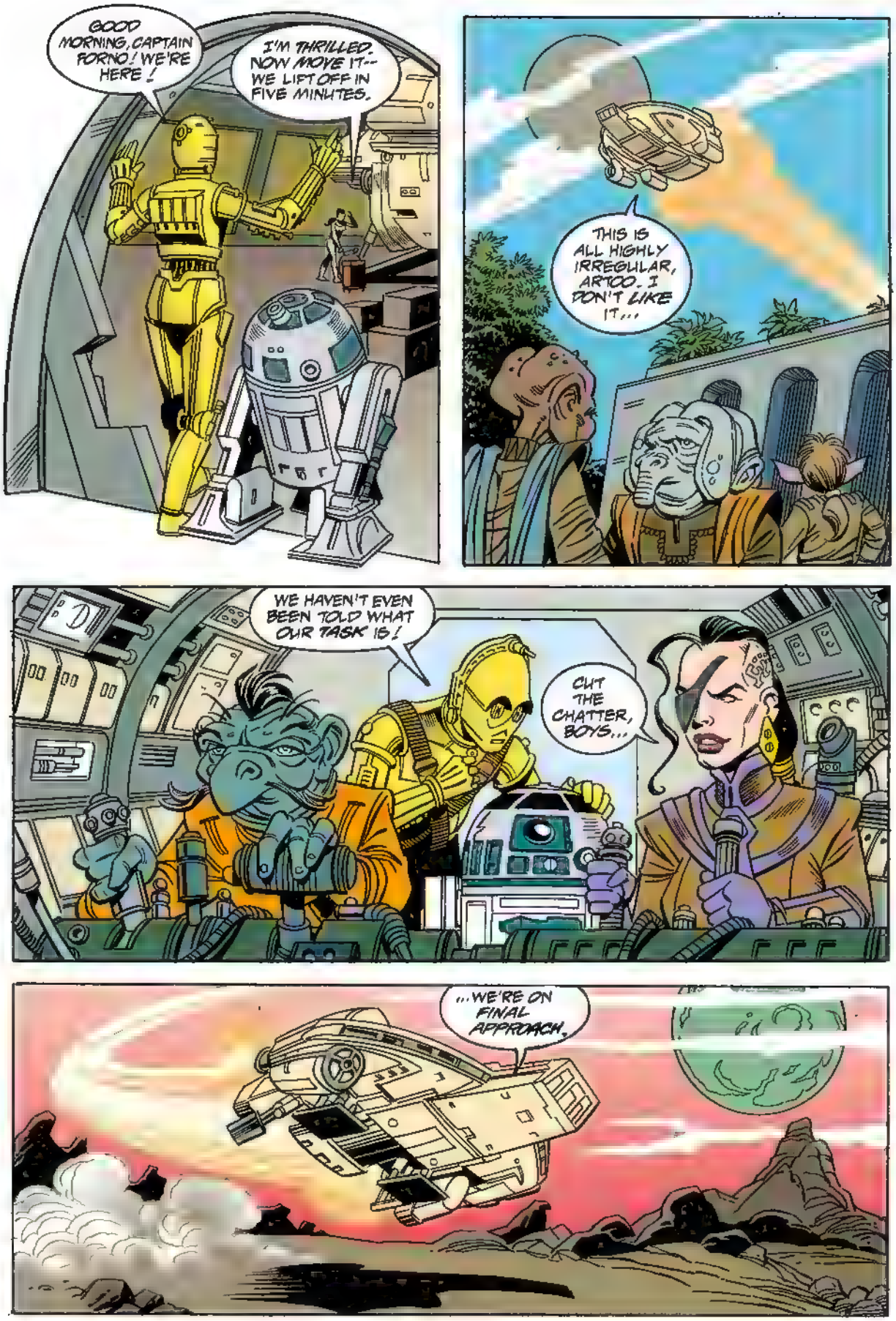

OH, DO HURRY UP, ARTOO! IF I HAVE TO STAND LIKE THIS MUCH LONGER, MY SERVOS WILL OVERHEAT!
FRIP DIT TWARK!
DON'T DISTRACT HIM, THREEPIO. MOMMA NEEDS THAT DRESS READY FOR TONIGHT'S BANQUET!
YOU DON'T SOUND VERY EXCITED, MASTER NAK. I FIND FORMAL AFFAIRS QUITE ENJOYABLE MYSELF...
THEY'RE PRETTY BORING IF YOU ASK ME. I'M MORE IN THE MOOD FOR A LITTLE ACTION! BZOW!
THREEPIO! ARTOO!


YES, MISTRESS?
THERE'S A CUSTOMER WAITING IN THE FRONT OFFICE. I'M BUSY... COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF IT?
CERTAINLY! JUST A MOMENT WHILE I TAKE THIS OFF...
GREETINGS! HOW MAY I HEL--OH DEAR! MS. FORNO, ISN'T IT?
CAPTAIN FORNO... I'M SOLO NOW. OLAG IS OUT OF THE PICTURE. FULMRICK HERE IS MY HIRED HAND.
I NEED A COUPLE OF GUIDES FOR A TRIP TO INDOBOK.
WELL, ARTOO IS PROGRAMMED WITH AN EXTENSIVE DATABASE OF INDOBOK'S GEOGRAPHY, BUT WOULDN'T AN ORGANIC GUIDE BE MORE APPROPRIATE?
NO. I NEED DROIDS FOR THIS JOB!
HEY, KID...
WHY DON'T YOU PUT YOUR EYES BACK IN YOUR HEAD. I'M NOT INTO YOUNGER MEN.
THE JOB PAYS FIVE HUNDRED. YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AT THE SPACEPORT, BAY THIRTEEN.

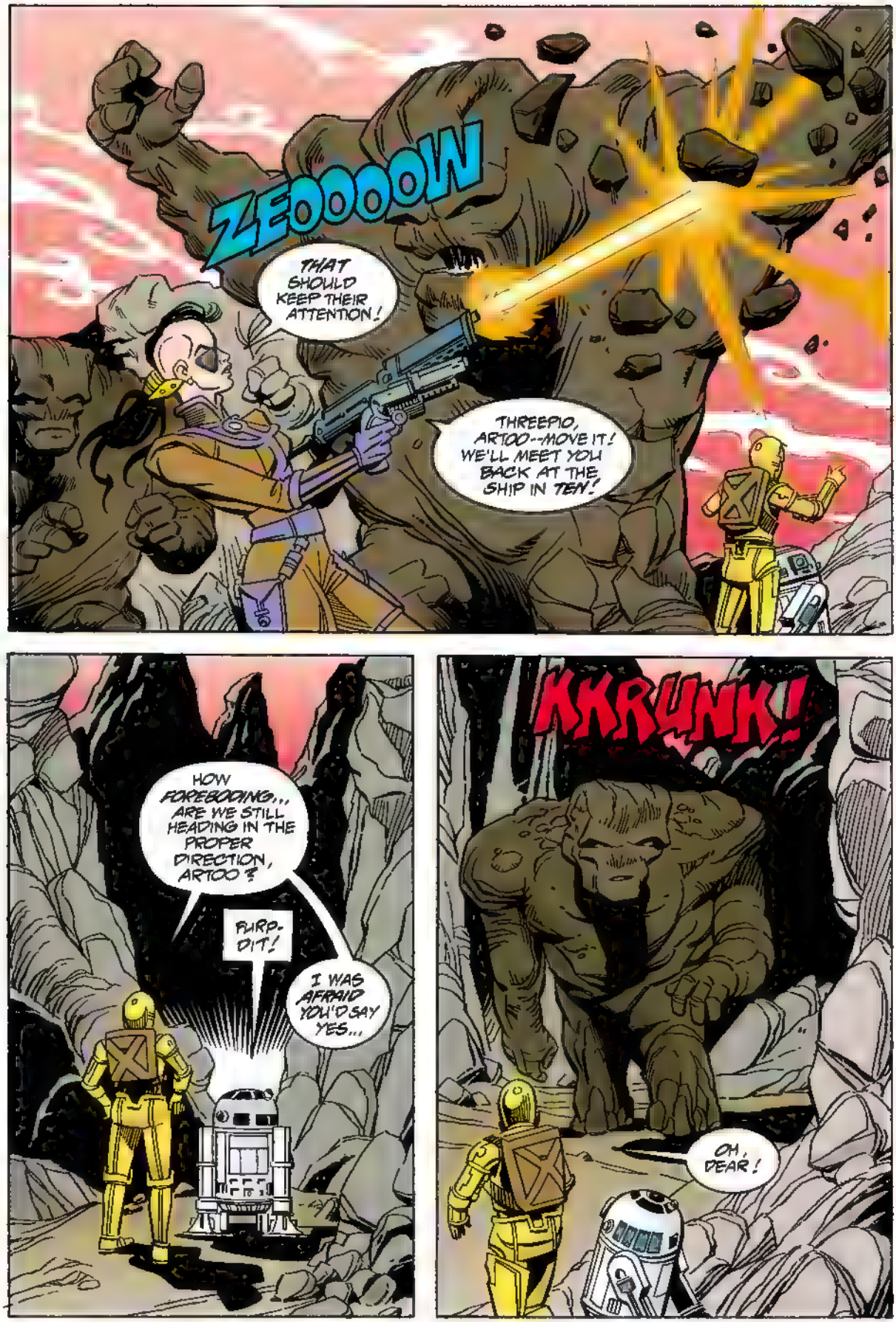

SHE'S SO...
SHADY, IF I MAY SAY SO.
VIP PA TREET!
ARTOO? YOU'RE ACTUALLY INTERESTED?
I WOULD RATHER NOT, TO BE FRANK, BUT I SUPPOSE MASTER AND MISTRESS PITAREEZE SHOULD DECIDE...
"...AFTER ALL, WE ARE THEIR EMPLOYEES!"
THEY'VE ACCEPTED, CAPTAIN.
GOOD. WITH THE DROIDS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SNAG A MOLD FULL OF THESE CRYSTALS, RATHER THAN JUST POCKETING ONE AND DROPPING THE REST...

LOOK AT THAT ENERGY TRANSFER RATE. ONE OF THESE COULD HANDLE ALL THE SYSTEMS POWER OF A SMALL PLANET! IT'LL BE WORTH A FORTUNE ON THE OPEN MARKET.
BUT WHY BOTHER RENTING THOSE DROIDS?

BECAUSE IF MY PLAN WORKS, AND INORGANICS CAN GET PAST THOSE... THINGS, WE WALK AWAY WITH A BAG OF CRYSTALS AND SCRAG THE DROIDS. NO WITNESSES.
WHY TRASH MY OWN PROPERTY, Y'KNOW? NOW GET THE SHIP PREPPED...
...WE LIFT OFF IN THE MORNING.

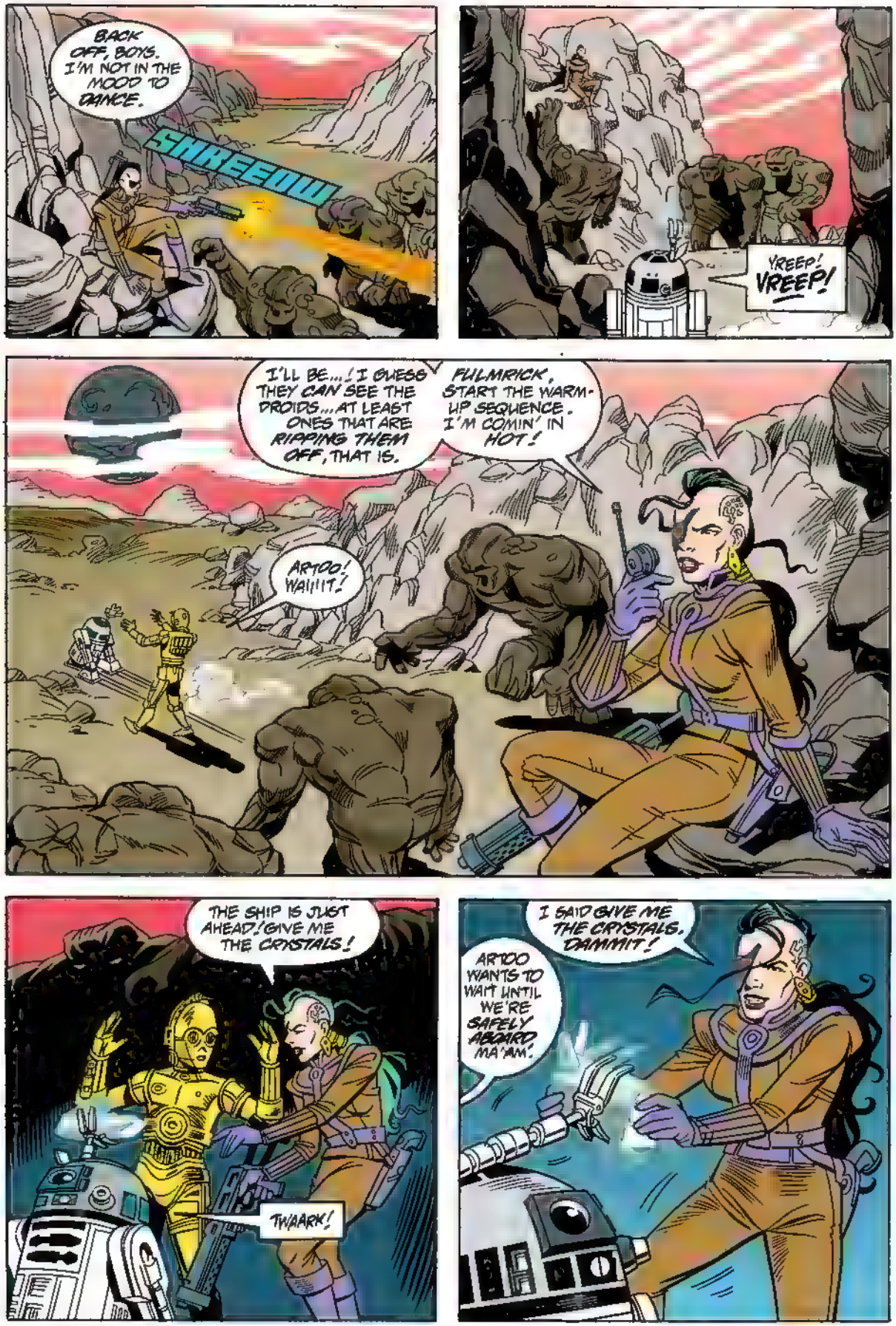

GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN FORNO! WE'RE HERE!
I'M THRILLED. NOW MOVE IT-- WE LIFT OFF IN FIVE MINUTES.
THIS IS ALL HIGHLY IRREGULAR, ARTOO. I DON'T LIKE IT...
WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN TOLD WHAT OUR TASK IS!
CUT THE CHATTER, BOYS...
...WE'RE ON FINAL APPROACH.

OUR DESTINATION IS A NARROW CANYON AT THE BASE OF THOSE MOUNTAINS. IT'S ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS AWAY.
IT LOOKS LIKE AN ASH-STORM IS BREWING... WE BETTER HURRY.
THE ASH-CLOUDS KICKED UP BY THE WINDS CAN BE BLINDING.
THE ASH IS GETTING INTO MY JOINTS!
SWITCH IT OFF WIREHEAD, AND LISTEN CAREFULLY, 'CAUSE I'LL ONLY TELL YOU ONCE...
TELL ARTOO TO SET HIS SCANNER FOR A HIGH EM SOURCE. IF WE GET SEPARATED, THAT READING WILL LEAD YOU TO A SHALLOW GULLY AT THE END OF THE CANYON.
THERE YOU'LL FIND THE CRYSTALS THAT HAVE FORMED ON THE STRATA-- TAKE THEM. AS MANY AS YOU CAN FIT IN YOUR BACK-PACK.
MEET FULMRICK AND ME BACK AT THE SHIP... WE'LL BE BUSY ENTERTAINING THE LOCALS.
LOCALS?
SEAL IT AND MOVE--THEY'RE HERE!
KRUSHK
OH MY!


ZEOOOOW
THAT SHOULD KEEP THEIR ATTENTION!
THREEPIO, ARTOO--MOVE IT! WE'LL MEET YOU BACK AT THE SHIP IN TEN!
HOW FOREBODING... ARE WE STILL HEADING IN THE PROPER DIRECTION, ARTOO?
FURP-DIT!
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY YES...
KKRUNK!
OH, DEAR!

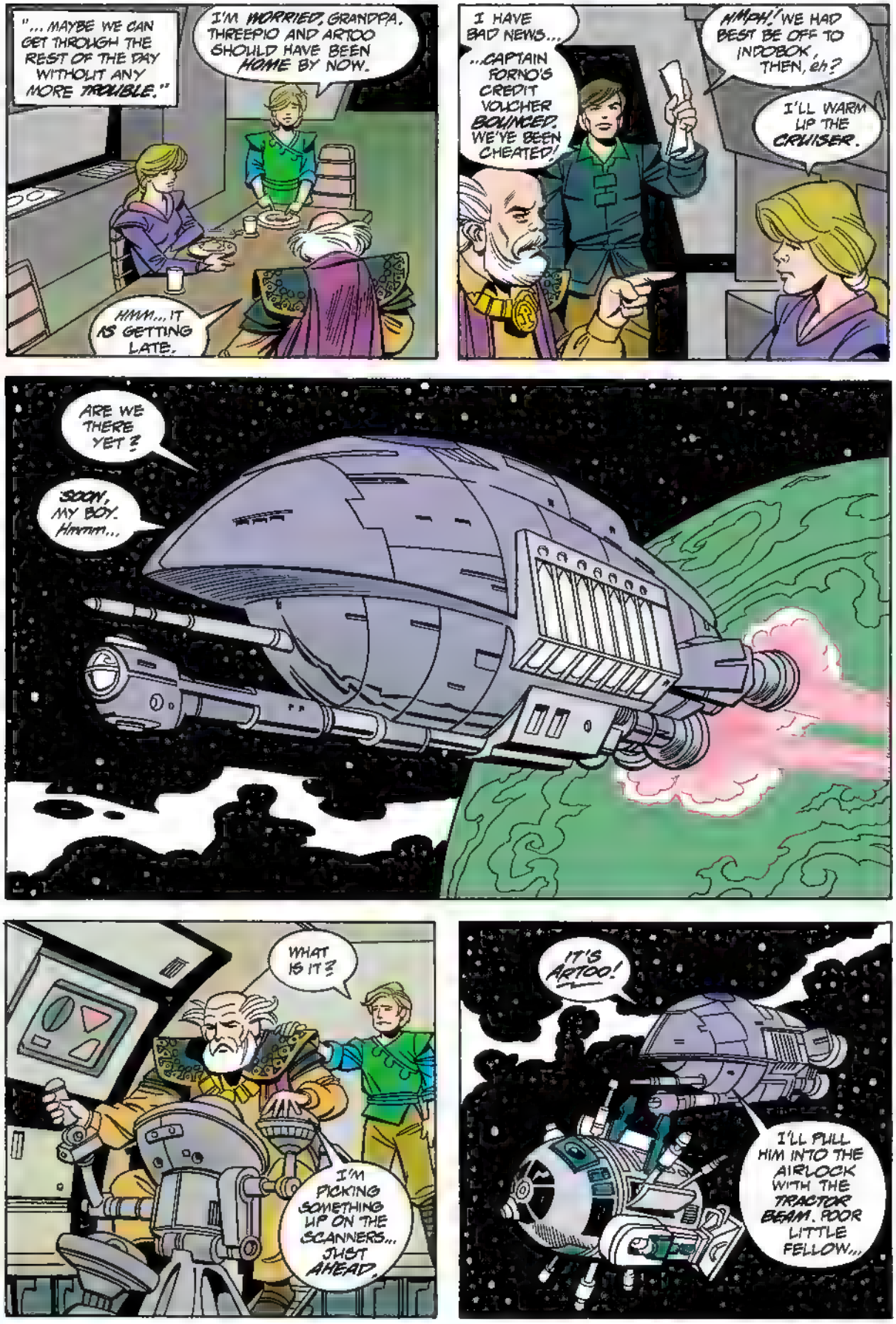
MY GOODNESS! IT'S AS IF WE WEREN'T EVEN HERE!
YRRT!
YES, I SUPPOSE WE HAD BETTER HURRY!
FREET DWIP-TEET!
I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF, ARTOO... REMARKABLE!
NOW STOP GAPING AND HELP GET THIS PACK OFF.
LOOK AT HOW THEY GLOW. I HOPE THEY AREN'T RADIOACTIVE... MY PROCESSORS ARE VERY SENSITIVE!
SNAPK

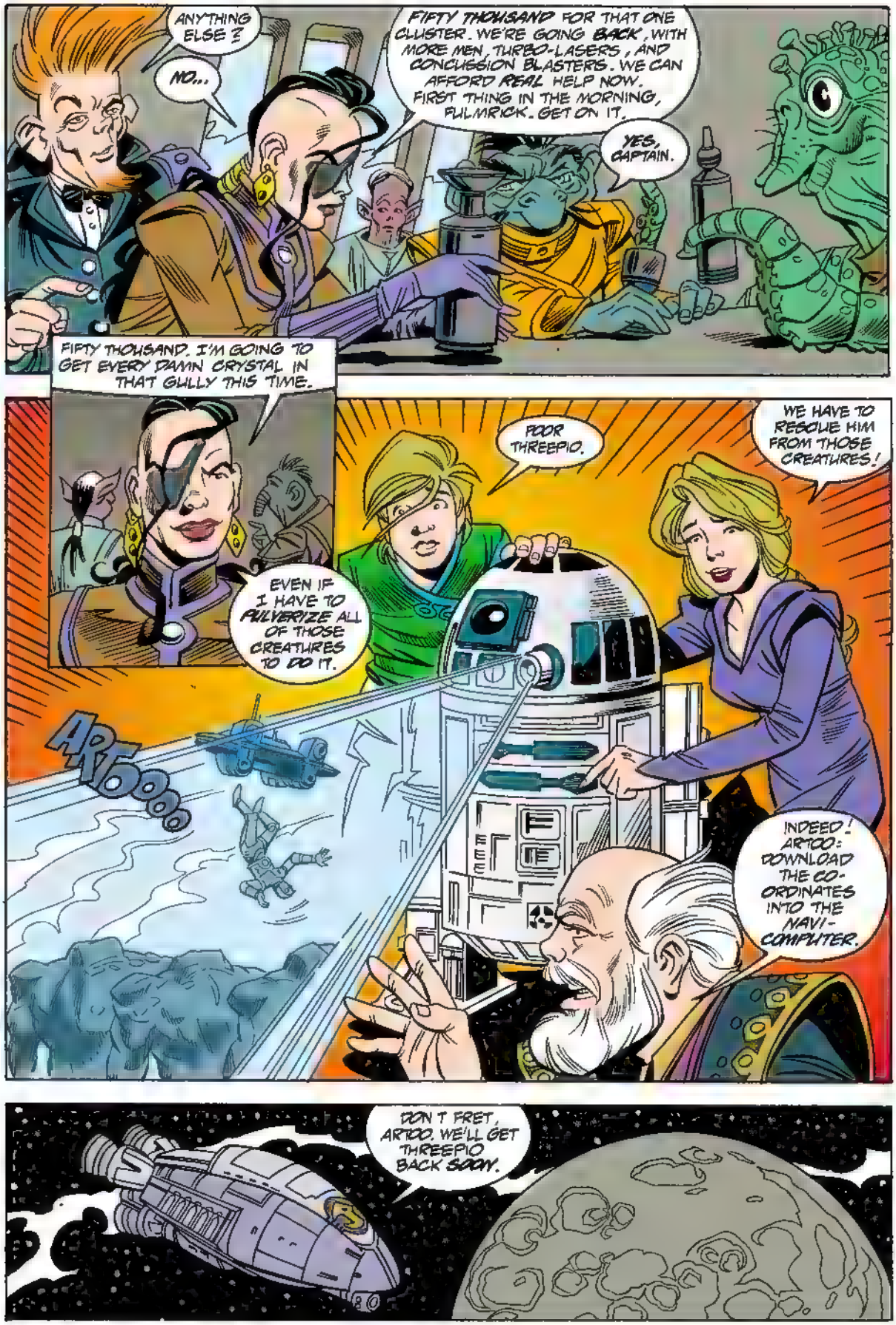
KRASHK
TWAARK!
OH MY-- GET AWAY!
ARTOO! HELP!
VIP DA DOOT!
THE CRYSTAL? OH, OF COURSE!
CATCH!
RUN, ARTOO! RUN!

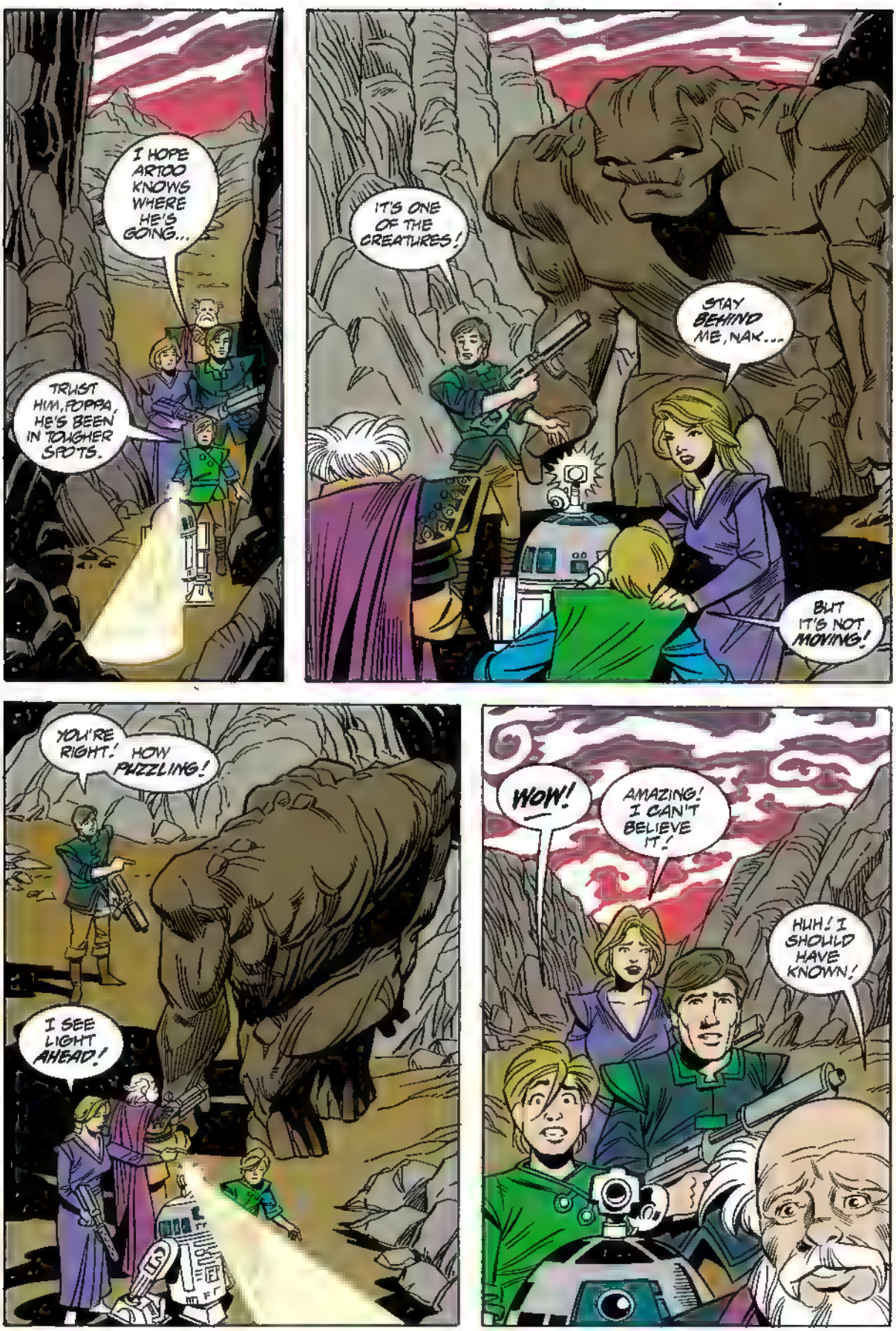

BACK OFF, BOYS. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO DANCE.
SKREEOW
YREEP! VREEP!
I'LL BE...! I GUESS THEY CAN SEE THE DROIDS... AT LEAST ONES THAT ARE RIPPING THEM OFF, THAT IS.
FULMRICK, START THE WARM-UP SEQUENCE. I'M COMIN' IN HOT!
ARTOO! WAIIIT!
THE SHIP IS JUST AHEAD! GIVE ME THE CRYSTALS!
TWAARK!
I SAID GIVE ME THE CRYSTALS, DAMMIT!
ARTOO WANTS TO WAIT UNTIL WE'RE SAFELY ABOARD, MA'AM.

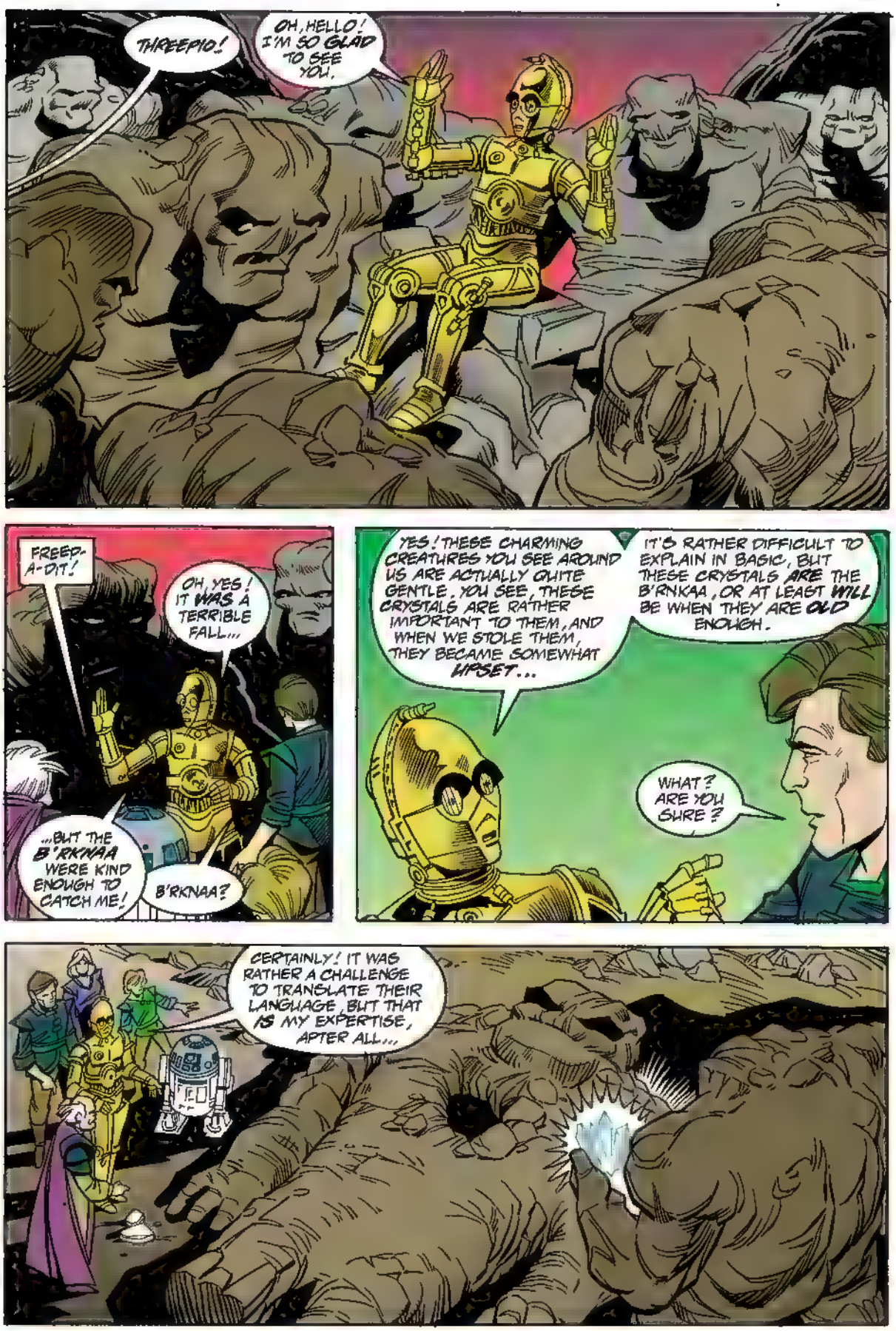
WHAT?
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER, RUST-BUCKET.
OH, DEAR... THE ASH! IT'S SEIZING MY JOINTS! I CAN'T KEEP UP, ARTOO!
ZZOW
KRARKK
MOVE IT! THEY'RE RIGHT ON US!
MY LEGS THEY'VE FROZEN SOLID-- I CAN'T MOVE!
WE'RE ON, FULMRICK! GET US OUT OF HERE!
CLANG
DON'T LEAVE ME, ARTOO...
I'M SLIPPING...!

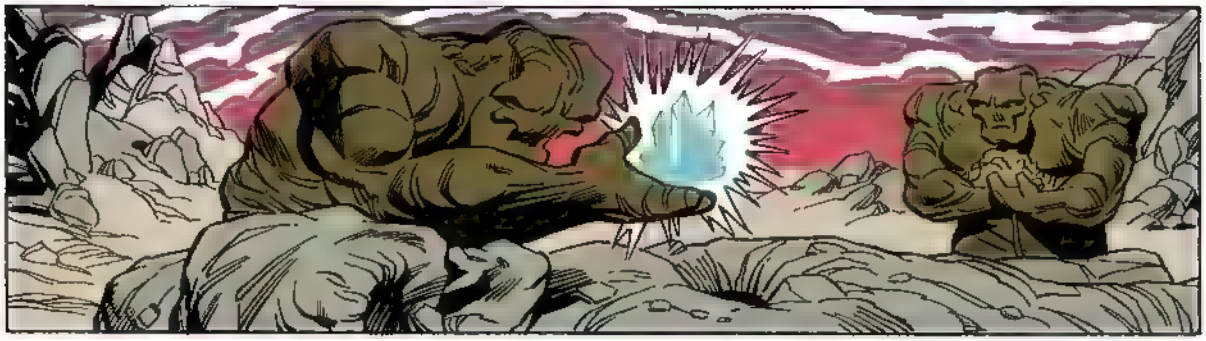
AIRTOOOOOOOOO
--THIS DROID... OHOH... SEEMS A LITTLE... UPSET.
SO WHAT? BLOW IT OUT THE AIRLOCK, FOR ALL I CARE.
ONE LOUSY CLUSTER... THOSE CREATURES DID IGNORE THE DROIDS, BUT ONLY UNTIL THEY GOT HOLD OF A CRYSTAL, THEN IT WAS ALL DOWNHILL.
FREEET
BOOP BEEP
THWAK A-ZEET
I'VE DISPOSED OF THE R2 UNIT, CAPTAIN.
GOOD..
LET'S HEAD FOR HOSK AND MEET OUR BUYER. WE CAN ALWAYS COME BACK LATER... IN FORCE.


"... MAYBE WE CAN GET THROUGH THE REST OF THE DAY WITHOUT ANY MORE TROUBLE."
I'M WORRIED, GRANDPA. THREEPIO AND ARTOO SHOULD HAVE BEEN HOME BY NOW.
HMM... IT IS GETTING LATE.
I HAVE BAD NEWS...
...CAPTAIN FORNO'S CREDIT VOUCHER BOUNCED. WE'VE BEEN CHEATED!
HMPH! WE HAD BEST BE OFF TO INDOBOK, THEN, eh?
I'LL WARM UP THE CRUISER.
ARE WE THERE YET?
SOON, MY BOY. Hmmm...
WHAT IS IT?
I'M PICKING SOMETHING UP ON THE SCANNERS... JUST AHEAD.
IT'S ARTOO!
I'LL PULL HIM INTO THE AIRLOCK WITH THE TRACTOR BEAM. POOR LITTLE FELLOW...

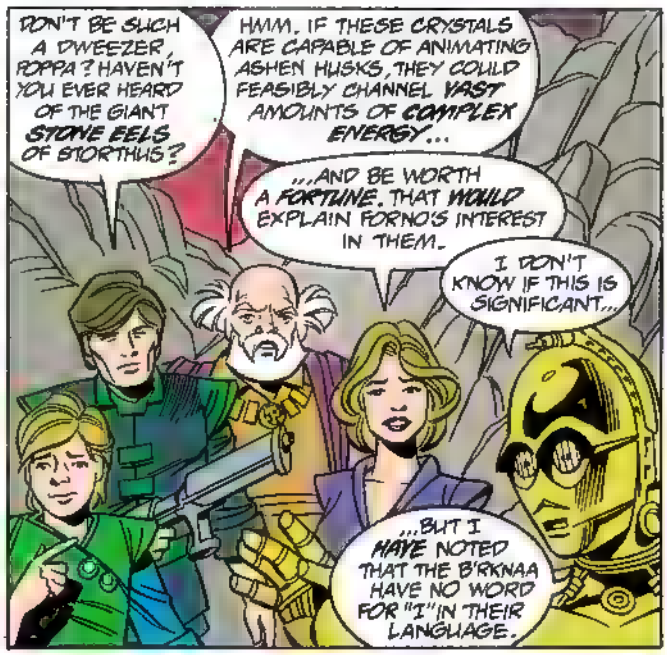

ANYTHING ELSE?
NO...
FIFTY THOUSAND FOR THAT ONE CLUSTER. WE'RE GOING BACK, WITH MORE MEN, TURBO-LASERS, AND CONCUSSION BLASTERS. WE CAN AFFORD REAL HELP NOW. FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, FULMRICK. GET ON IT.
YES, CAPTAIN.
FIFTY THOUSAND. I'M GOING TO GET EVERY DAMN CRYSTAL IN THAT GULLY THIS TIME.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO PULVERIZE ALL OF THOSE CREATURES TO DO IT.
POOR THREEPIO.
WE HAVE TO RESCUE HIM FROM THOSE CREATURES!
ARTOOOO
INDEED! ARTOO: DOWNLOAD THE CO-ORDINATES INTO THE NAVI-COMPUTER.
DON'T FRET, ARTOO. WE'LL GET THREEPIO BACK SOON.

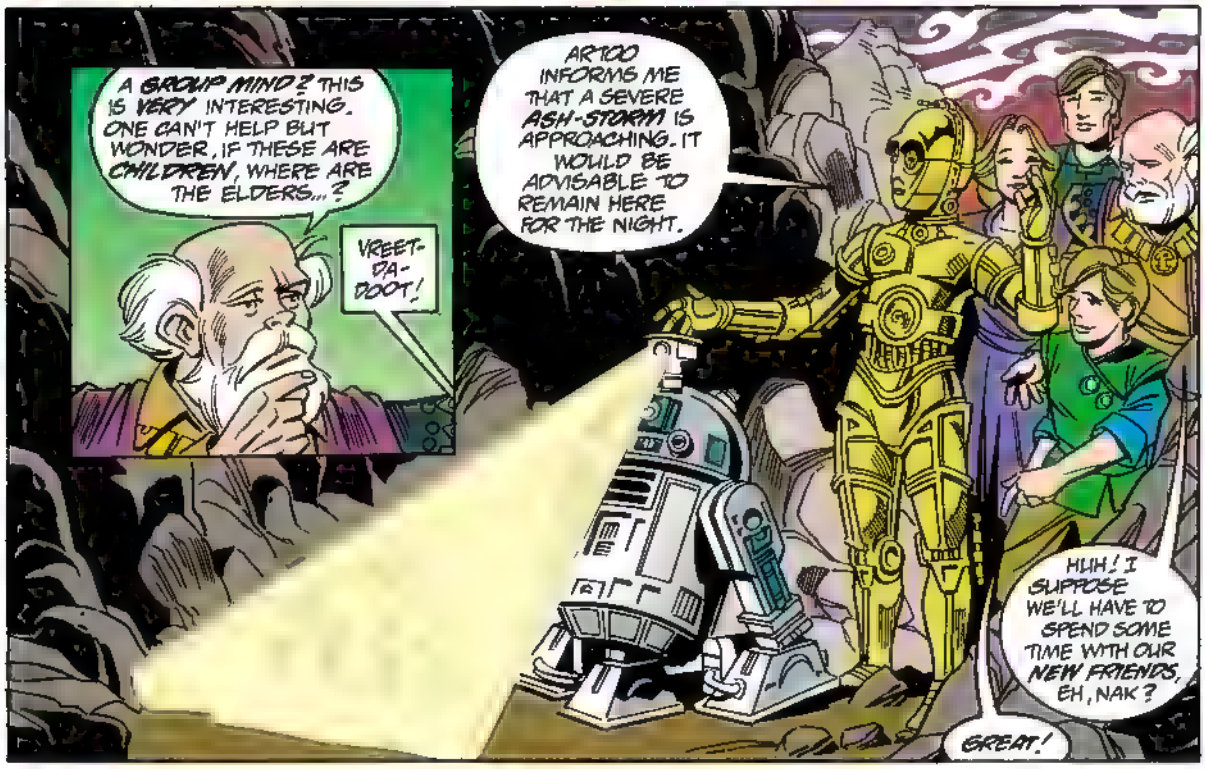

I HOPE ARTOO KNOWS WHERE HE'S GOING...
TRUST HIM, POPPA, HE'S BEEN IN TOUGHER SPOTS.
IT'S ONE OF THE CREATURES!
STAY BEHIND ME, NAK...
BUT IT'S NOT MOVING!
YOU'RE RIGHT. HOW PUZZLING!
I SEE LIGHT AHEAD!
WOW!
AMAZING! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HUH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

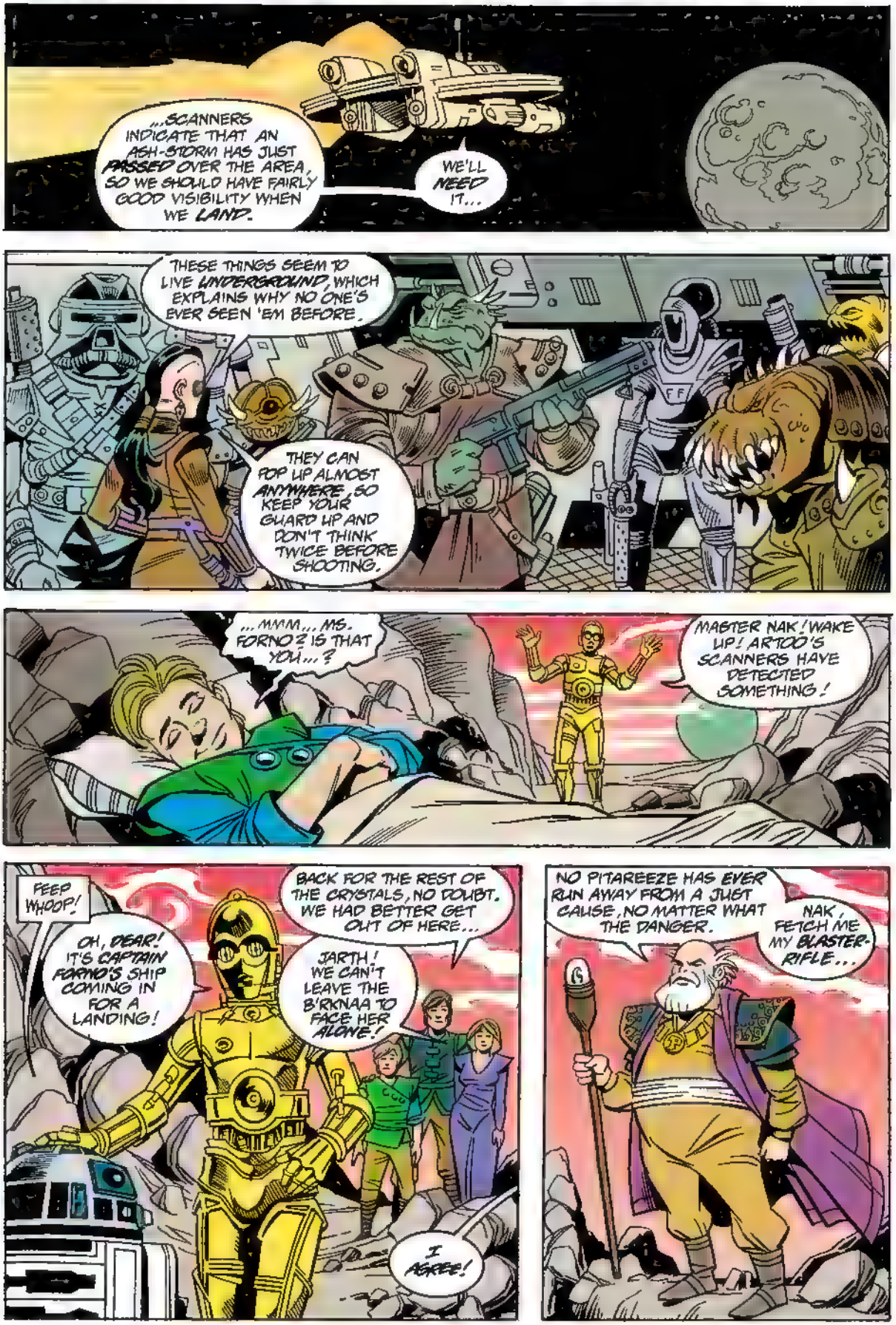

THREEPIO!
OH, HELLO! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.
FREEP-A-DIT!
OH, YES! IT WAS A TERRIBLE FALL...
...BUT THE B'RKNAA WERE KIND ENOUGH TO CATCH ME!
B'RKNAA?
YES! THESE CHARMING CREATURES YOU SEE AROUND US ARE ACTUALLY QUITE GENTLE. YOU SEE, THESE CRYSTALS ARE RATHER IMPORTANT TO THEM, AND WHEN WE STOLE THEM, THEY BECAME SOMEWHAT UPSET...
IT'S RATHER DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN IN BASIC, BUT THESE CRYSTALS ARE THE B'RNKAA, OR AT LEAST WILL BE WHEN THEY ARE OLD ENOUGH.
WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?
CERTAINLY! IT WAS RATHER A CHALLENGE TO TRANSLATE THEIR LANGUAGE, BUT THAT IS MY EXPERTISE, AFTER ALL...



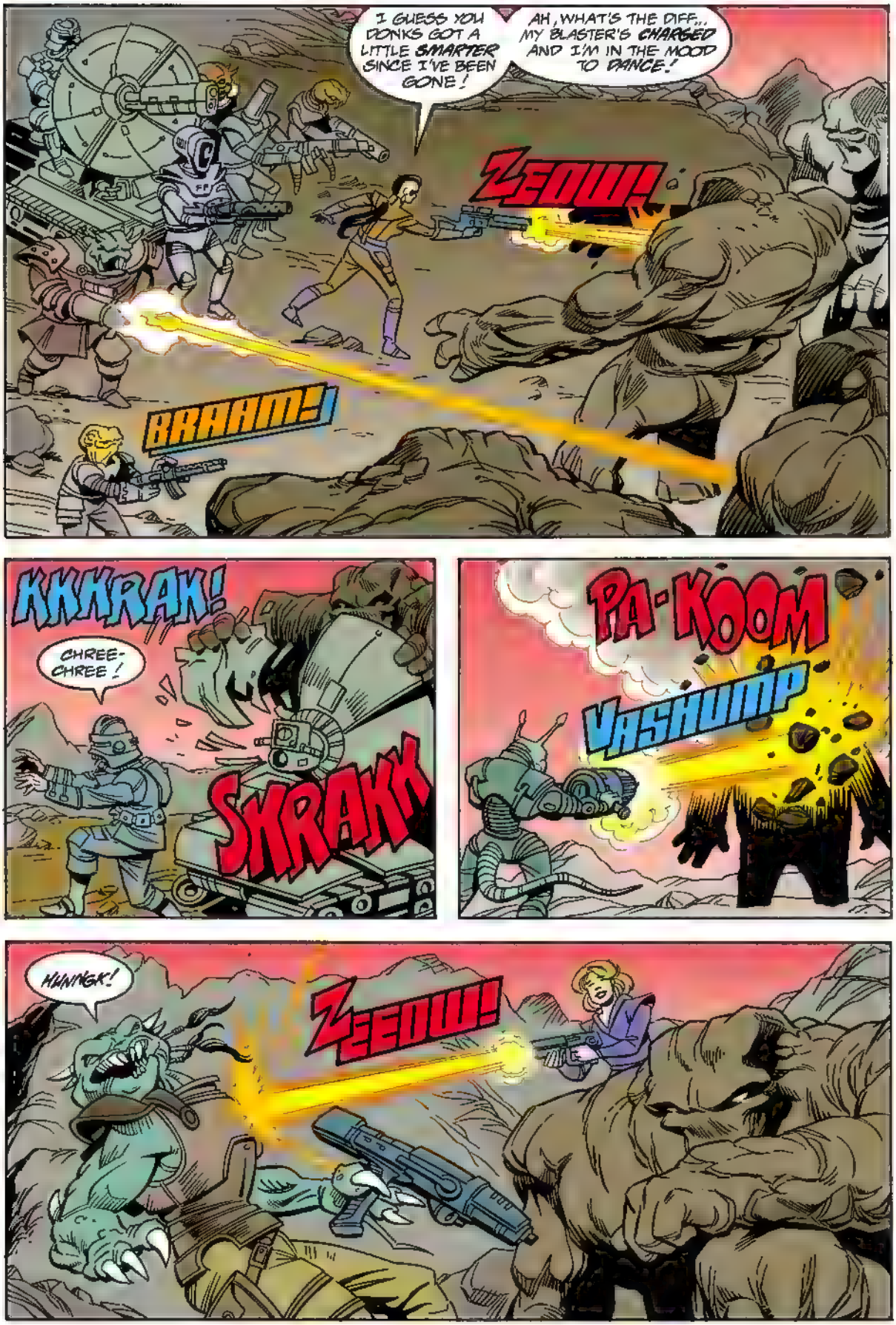
K'KRASK?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... LIVING STONE? HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

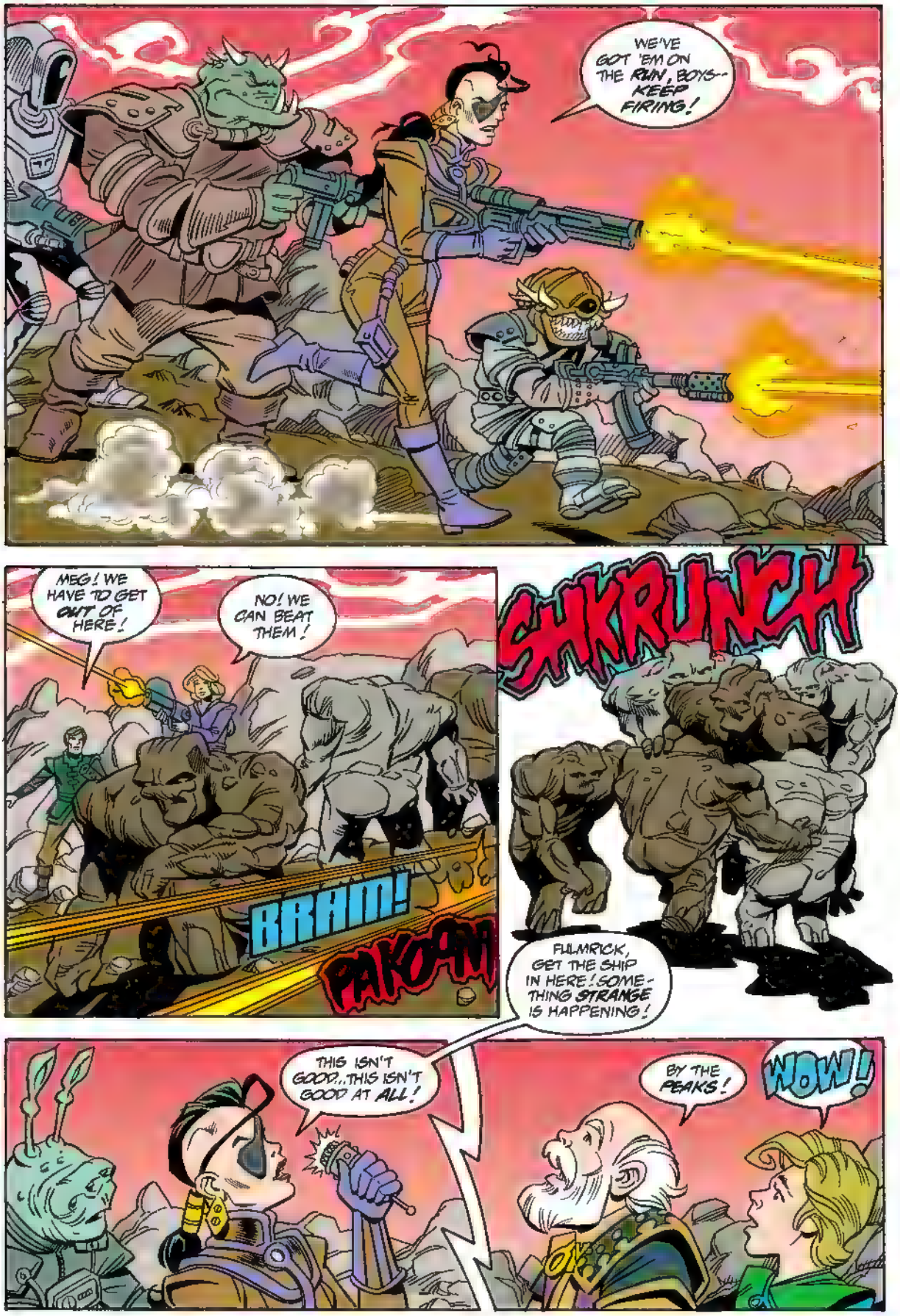

DON'T BE SUCH A DWEEZER, POPPA? HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF THE GIANT STONE EELS OF STORTHUS?
HMM. IF THESE CRYSTALS ARE CAPABLE OF ANIMATING ASHEN HUSKS, THEY COULD FEASIBLY CHANNEL VAST AMOUNTS OF COMPLEX ENERGY...
...AND BE WORTH A FORTUNE. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN FORNO'S INTEREST IN THEM.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS SIGNIFICANT...
...BUT I HAVE NOTED THAT THE B'RKNAA HAVE NO WORD FOR "I" IN THEIR LANGUAGE.


A GROUP MIND? THIS IS VERY INTERESTING. ONE CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER, IF THESE ARE CHILDREN, WHERE ARE THE ELDERS...?
VREET-DA-DOOT!
ARTOO INFORMS ME THAT A SEVERE ASH-STORM IS APPROACHING. IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO REMAIN HERE FOR THE NIGHT.
HUH! I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH OUR NEW FRIENDS, EH, NAK?
GREAT!


...SCANNERS INDICATE THAT AN ASH-STORM HAS JUST PASSED OVER THE AREA, SO WE SHOULD HAVE FAIRLY GOOD VISIBILITY WHEN WE LAND.
WE'LL NEED IT...
THESE THINGS SEEM TO LIVE UNDERGROUND, WHICH EXPLAINS WHY NO ONE'S EVER SEEN 'EM BEFORE.
THEY CAN POP UP ALMOST ANYWHERE, SO KEEP YOUR GUARD UP AND DON'T THINK TWICE BEFORE SHOOTING.
...MMM... MS. FORNO? IS THAT YOU...?
MASTER NAK! WAKE UP! ARTOO'S SCANNERS HAVE DETECTED SOMETHING!
PEEP WHOOP!
OH, DEAR! IT'S CAPTAIN FORNO'S SHIP COMING IN FOR A LANDING!
BACK FOR THE REST OF THE CRYSTALS, NO DOUBT. WE HAD BETTER GET OUT OF HERE...
JARTH! WE CAN'T LEAVE THE B'RKNAA TO FACE HER ALONE!
I AGREE!
NO PITAREEZE HAS EVER RUN AWAY FROM A JUST CAUSE, NO MATTER WHAT THE DANGER.
NAK, FETCH ME MY BLASTER-RIFLE...

THAT'S IT BOYS... SLOW AND STEADY. WE'LL GET THERE SOON ENOUGH.
CAPTAIN FORNO!
SCANNERS SHOW THE PTIAREEZE'S CRUISER BURIED UNDER ASH... ABOUT TWO KLICKS OFF...
RELAX, FULMRICK. THEY WERE PROBABLY OUT SEARCHING FOR THEIR DROIDS AND GOT CAUGHT IN THE STORM.
EVEN IF THEY DID MANAGE TO SURVIVE, THOSE BLUE-BLOODS WOULDN'T KNOW A BLASTER FROM A BANTHA...
UNGH!
I'LL BE -- TRACK THAT SHOT AND OPEN FIRE!
BRAAM!
WOW! THAT SHOULD KEEP THAT UGLY DWEEZER DOWN FOR A WHILE!
CAPTAIN! I'M DETECTING MOVEMENT IN FRONT OF YOU!
IT'S THEM!

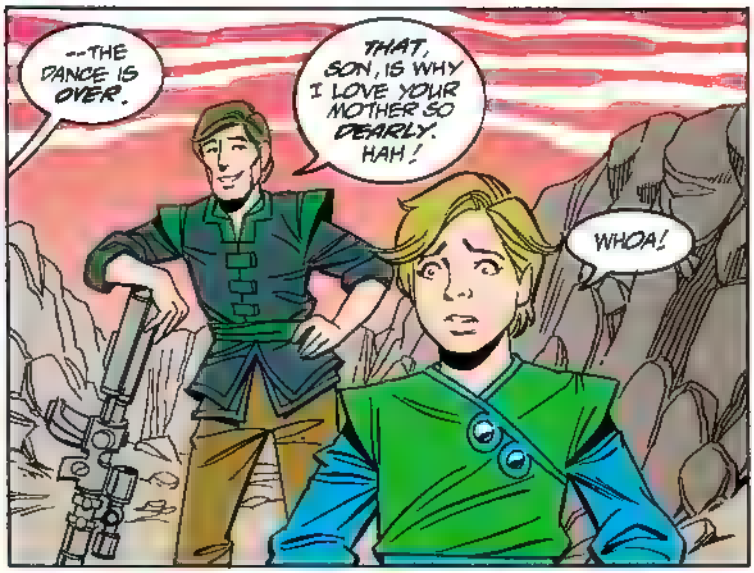

I GUESS YOU DONKS GOT A LITTLE SMARTER SINCE I'VE BEEN GONE!
AH, WHAT'S THE DIFF... MY BLASTER'S CHARGED AND I'M IN THE MOOD TO DANCE!
ZEOW!
BRAHM!
KKKRAK!
CHREE-CHREE!
SKRAKK
PA-KOOM
VASHUMP
HUNNGK!
ZEEOW!

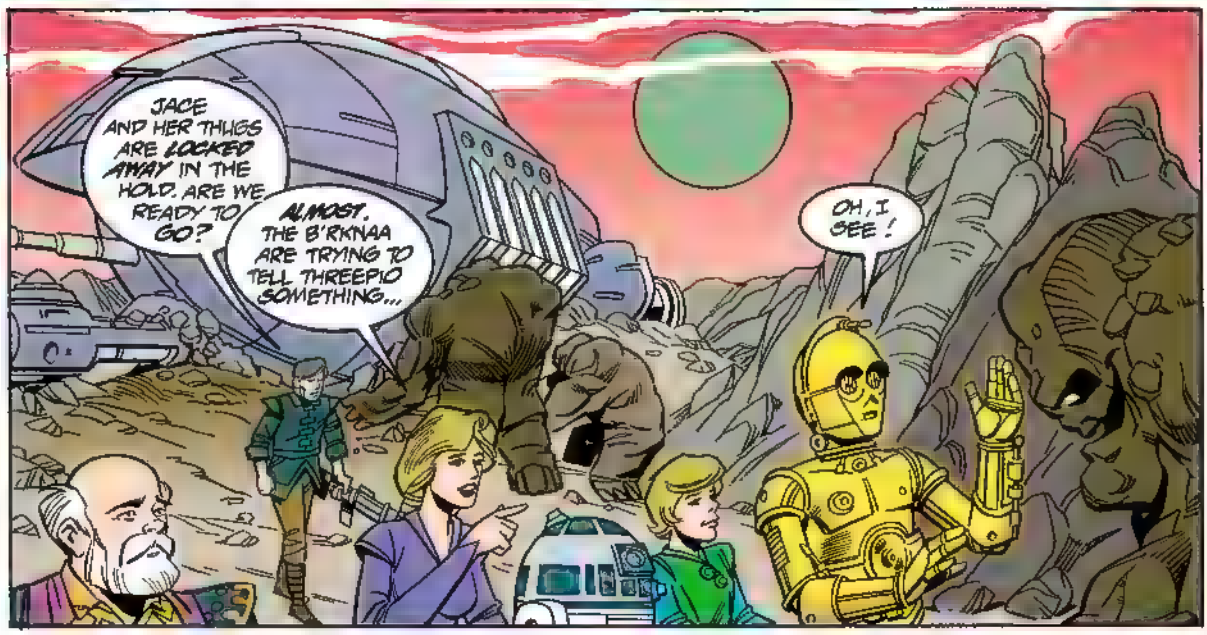

WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN, BOYS-- KEEP FIRING!
MEG! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
NO! WE CAN BEAT THEM!
BRAM!
PAKOW
SHKRUNCH
FULMRICK, GET THE SHIP IN HERE! SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING!
THIS ISN'T GOOD...THIS ISN'T GOOD AT ALL!
BY THE PEAKS!
WOW!

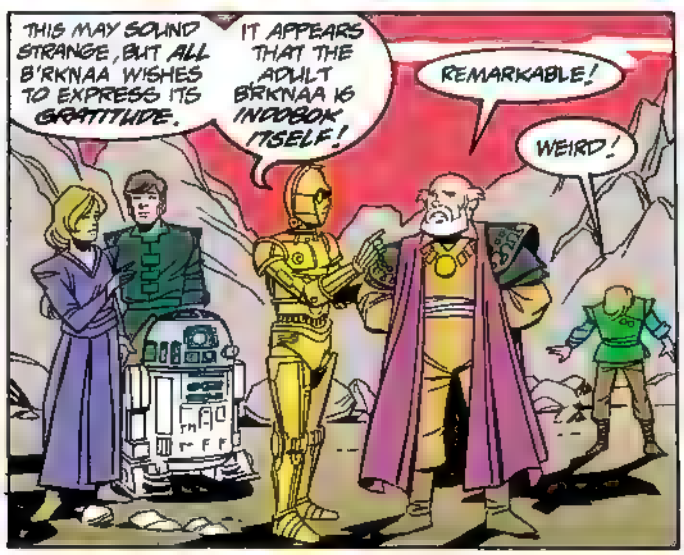
I'M ALMOST THERE, CAP... HEEEP!

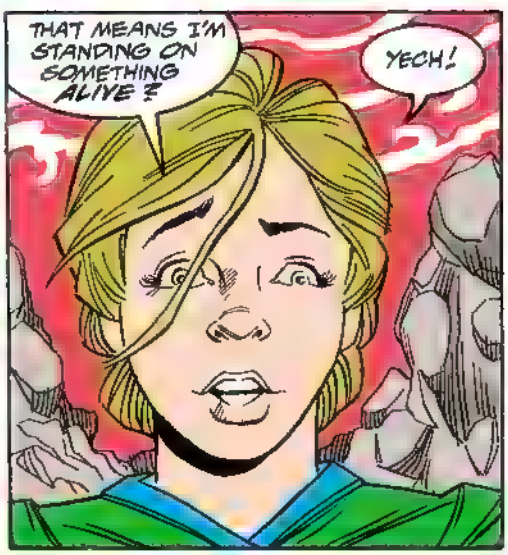
SHRUNNK
SKKRRUNK!
SHA-KRAM
MY SHIP...
TELL YOUR GOONS TO DROP THEIR WEAPONS...
NOW.

WELL, WELL... SHOULDN'T YOU BE CAREFUL WITH THAT BIG OL' BLASTER, LITTLE MISS MOUSE-WIFE?
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, FORNO, OR YOU'LL BE MISSING YOUR OTHER EYE.
YOU HEARD HER, BOYS...
...DROP YOUR WEAPONS--


--THE DANCE IS OVER.
THAT, SON, IS WHY I LOVE YOUR MOTHER SO DEARLY. HAH!
WHOA!

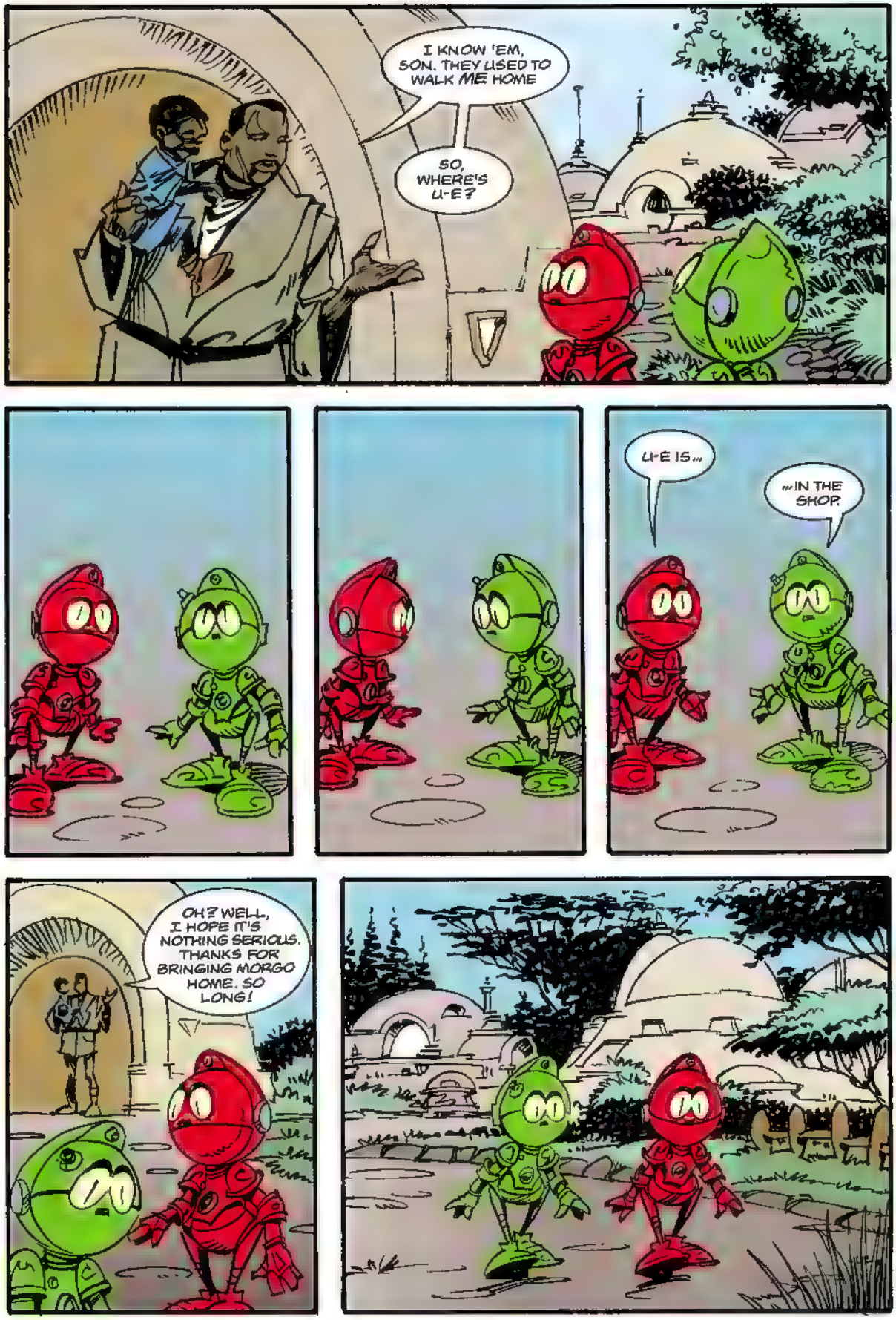

JACE AND HER THUGS ARE LOCKED AWAY IN THE HOLD. ARE WE READY TO GO?
ALMOST. THE B'RKNAA ARE TRYING TO TELL THREEPIO SOMETHING...
OH, I SEE!

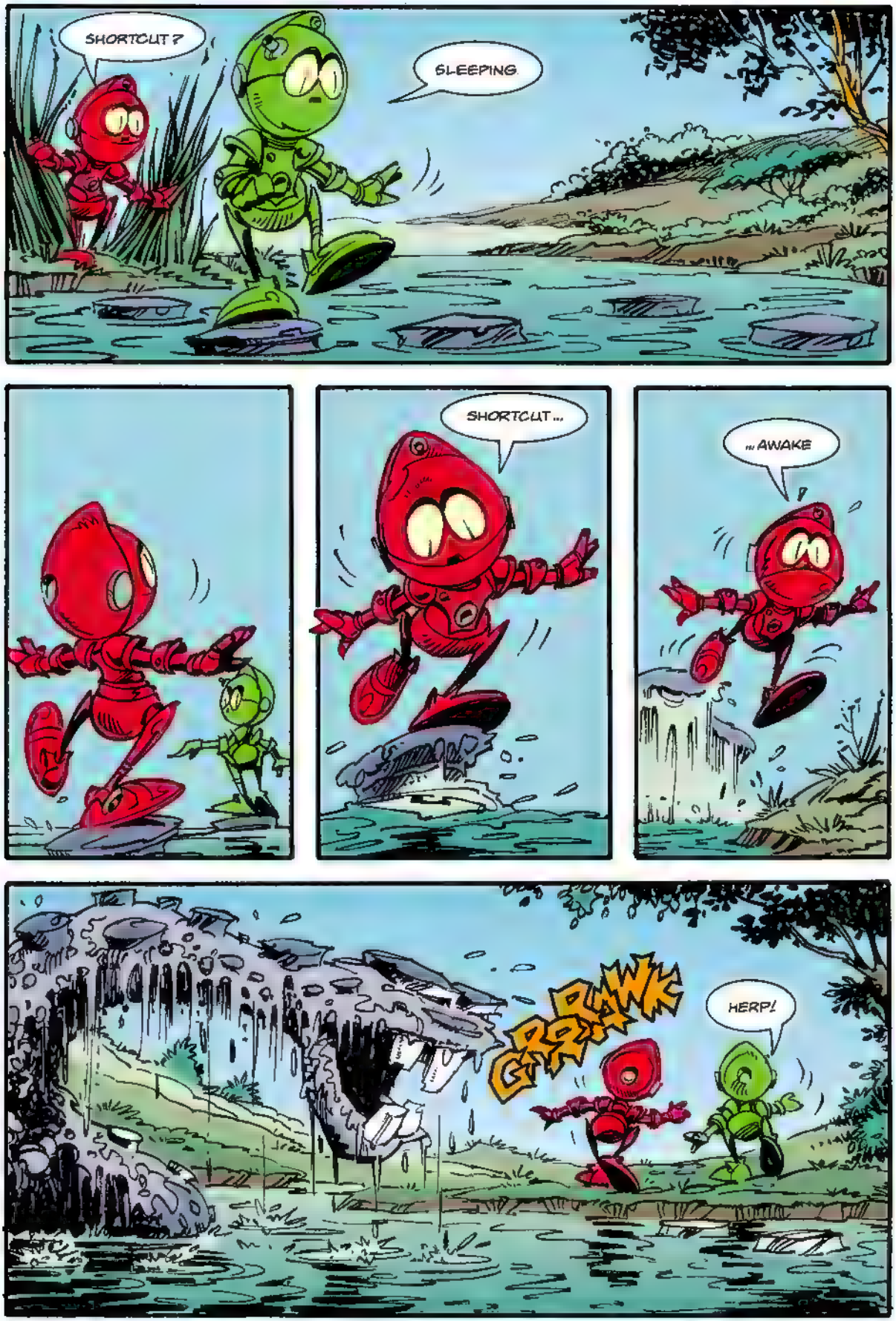

THIS MAY SOUND STRANGE, BUT ALL B'RKNAA WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE.
IT APPEARS THAT THE ADULT B'RKNAA IS INDEBTED ITSELF!
REMARKABLE!
WEIRD!

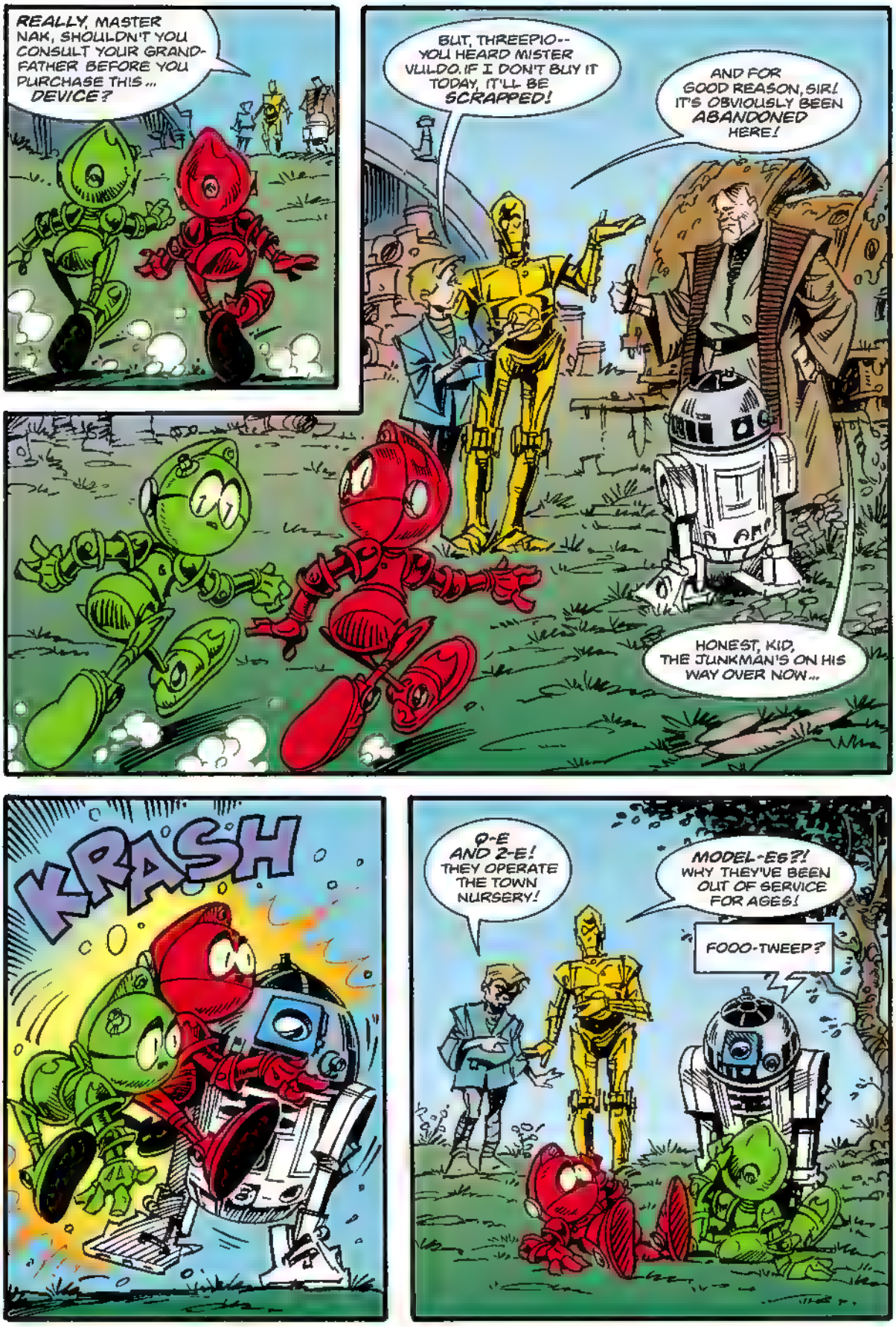

THAT MEANS I'M STANDING ON SOMETHING ALIVE?
YECH!

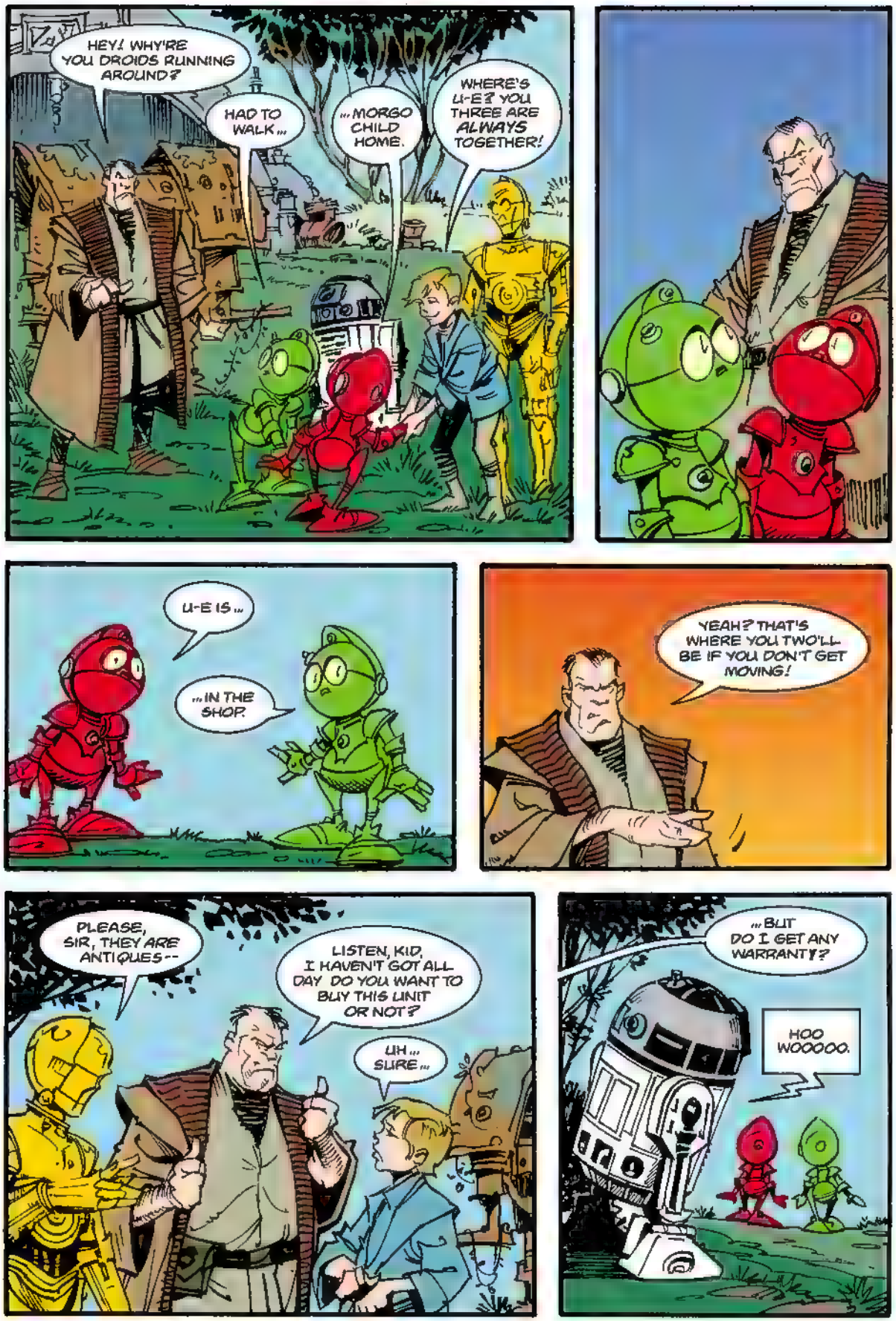
END

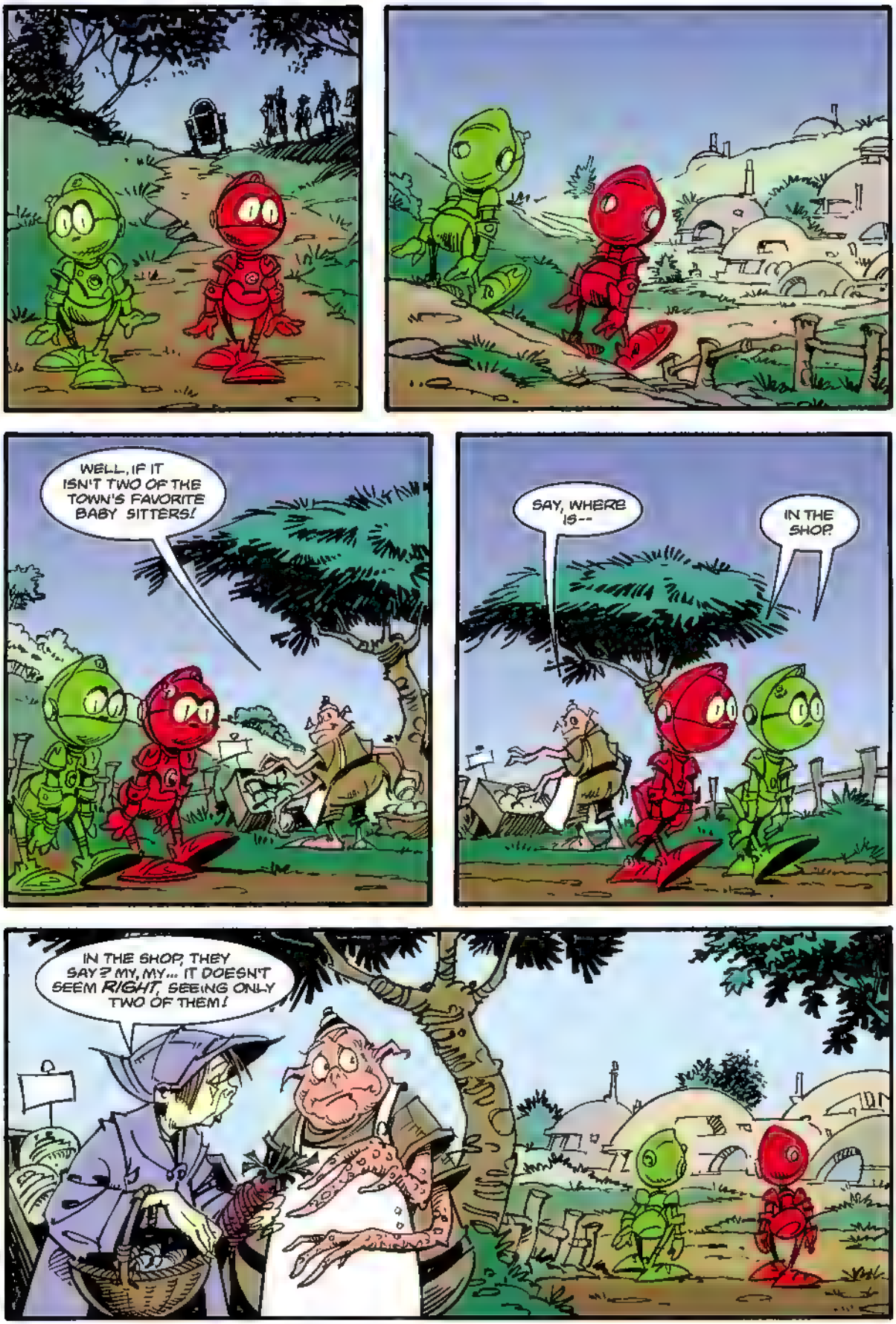
NOK NOK
YES?
HELLO, DOWN THERE!
HOW'S MY LITTLE MORGO?
GUESS WHO WALKED ME HOME!

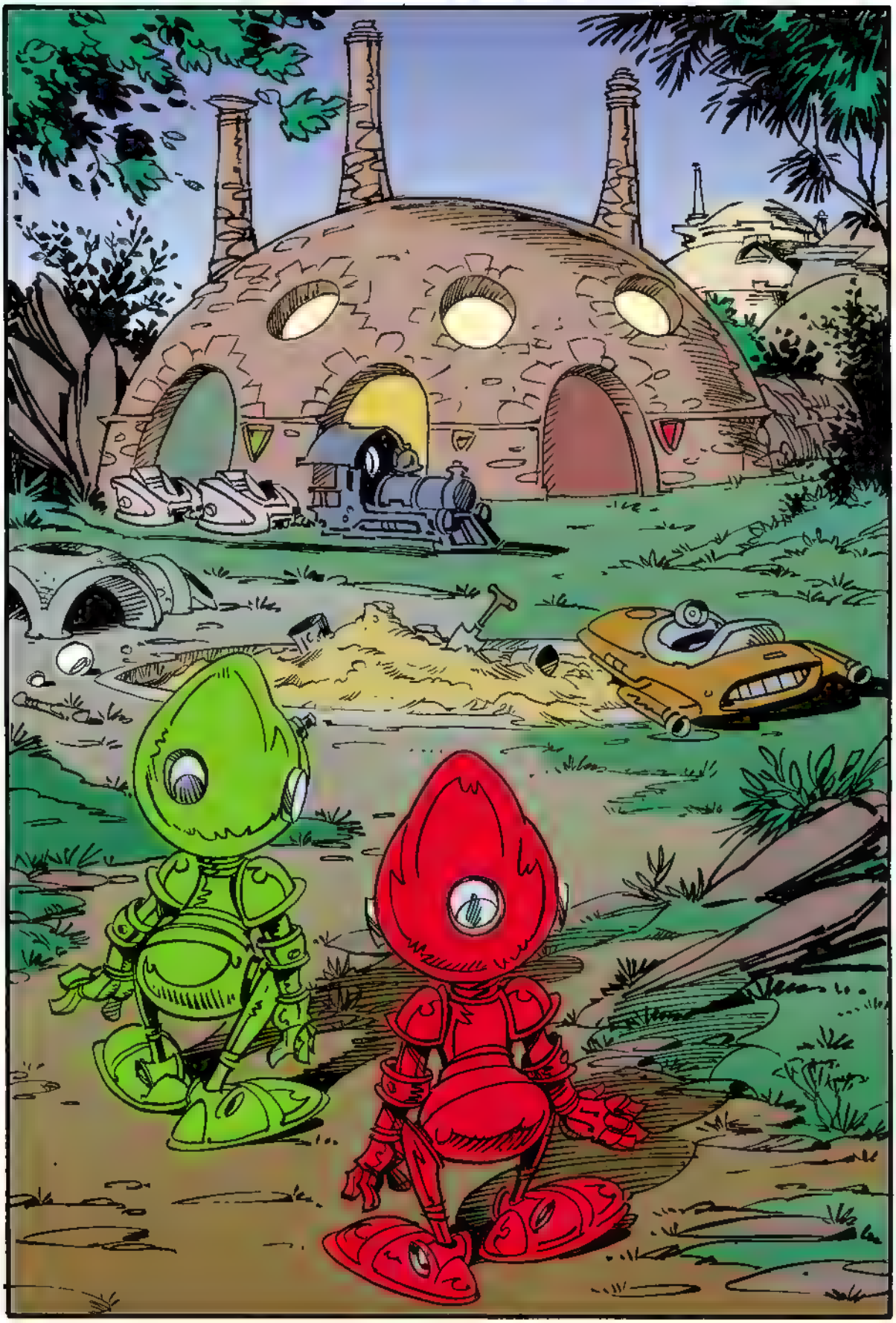

I KNOW 'EM, SON. THEY USED TO WALK ME HOME
SO, WHERE'S U-E?
U-E IS...
...IN THE SHOP.
OH? WELL, I HOPE IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS. THANKS FOR BRINGING MORGO HOME. SO LONG!

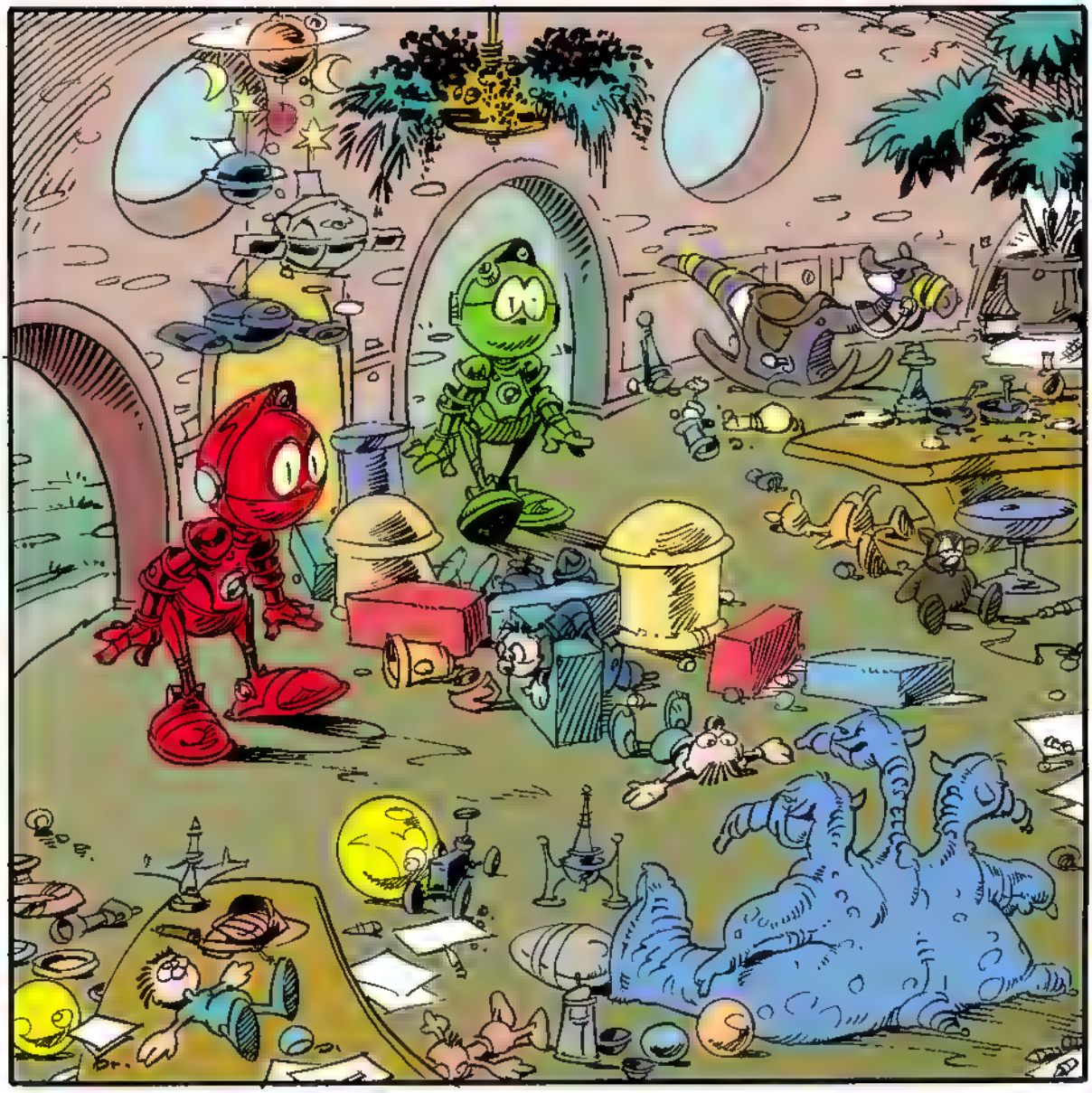

SHORTCUT?
SLEEPING.
SHORTCUT...
...AWAKE
GRRAWK
HERP!

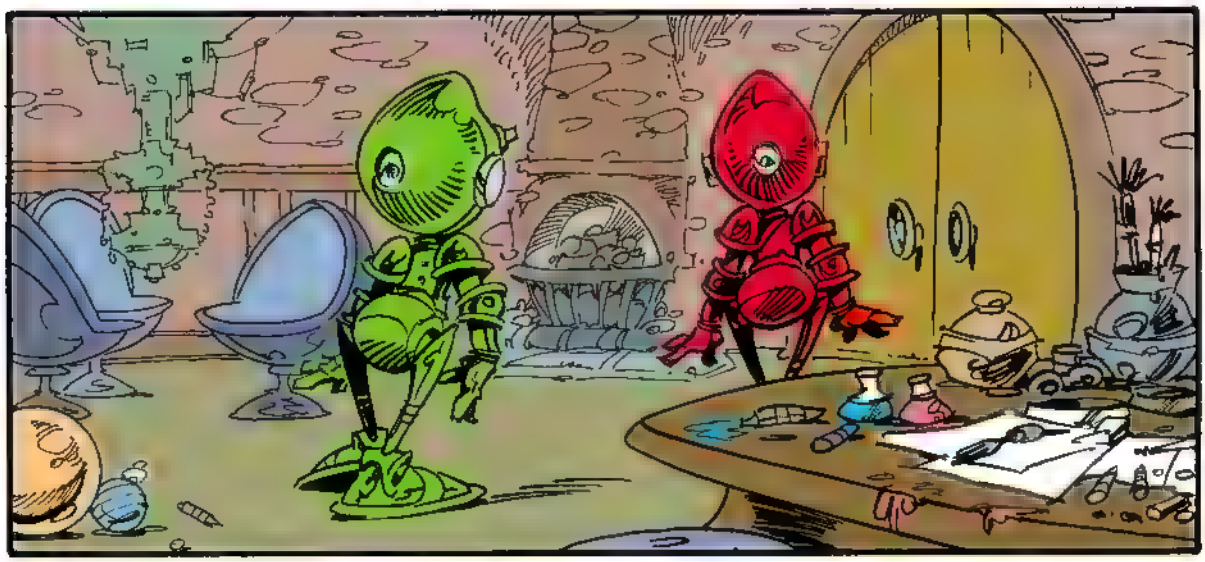

REALLY, MASTER NAK, SHOULDN'T YOU CONSULT YOUR GRANDFATHER BEFORE YOU PURCHASE THIS... DEVICE?
BUT, THREEPIO-- YOU HEARD MISTER VLLDO. IF I DON'T BUY IT TODAY, IT'LL BE SCRAPPED!
AND FOR GOOD REASON, SIR! IT'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN ABANDONED HERE!
HONEST, KID, THE JUNKMAN'S ON HIS WAY OVER NOW...
KRASH
Q-E AND 2-E! THEY OPERATE THE TOWN NURSERY!
MODEL-E6?! WHY THEY'VE BEEN OUT OF SERVICE FOR AGES!
FOOO-TWEEP?

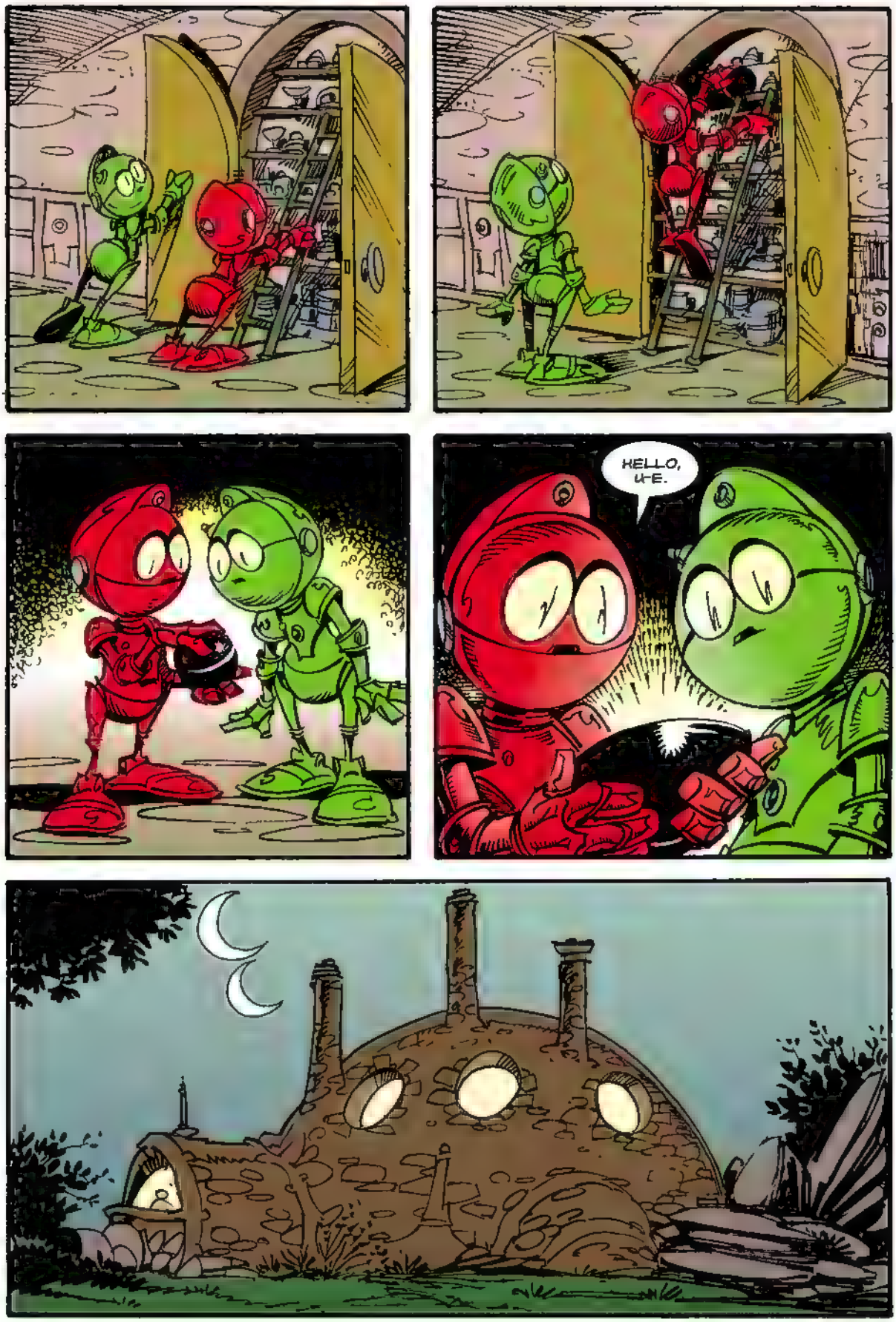

HEY! WHY'RE YOU DROIDS RUNNING AROUND?
HAD TO WALK...
...MORGO CHILD HOME.
WHERE'S U-E? YOU THREE ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER!
U-E IS...
...IN THE SHOP.
YEAH? THAT'S WHERE YOU TWO'LL BE IF YOU DON'T GET MOVING!
PLEASE, SIR, THEY ARE ANTIQUES--
LISTEN, KID, I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY DO YOU WANT TO BUY THIS UNIT OR NOT?
UH... SURE...
...BUT DO I GET ANY WARRANTY?
HOO WOOOOO.

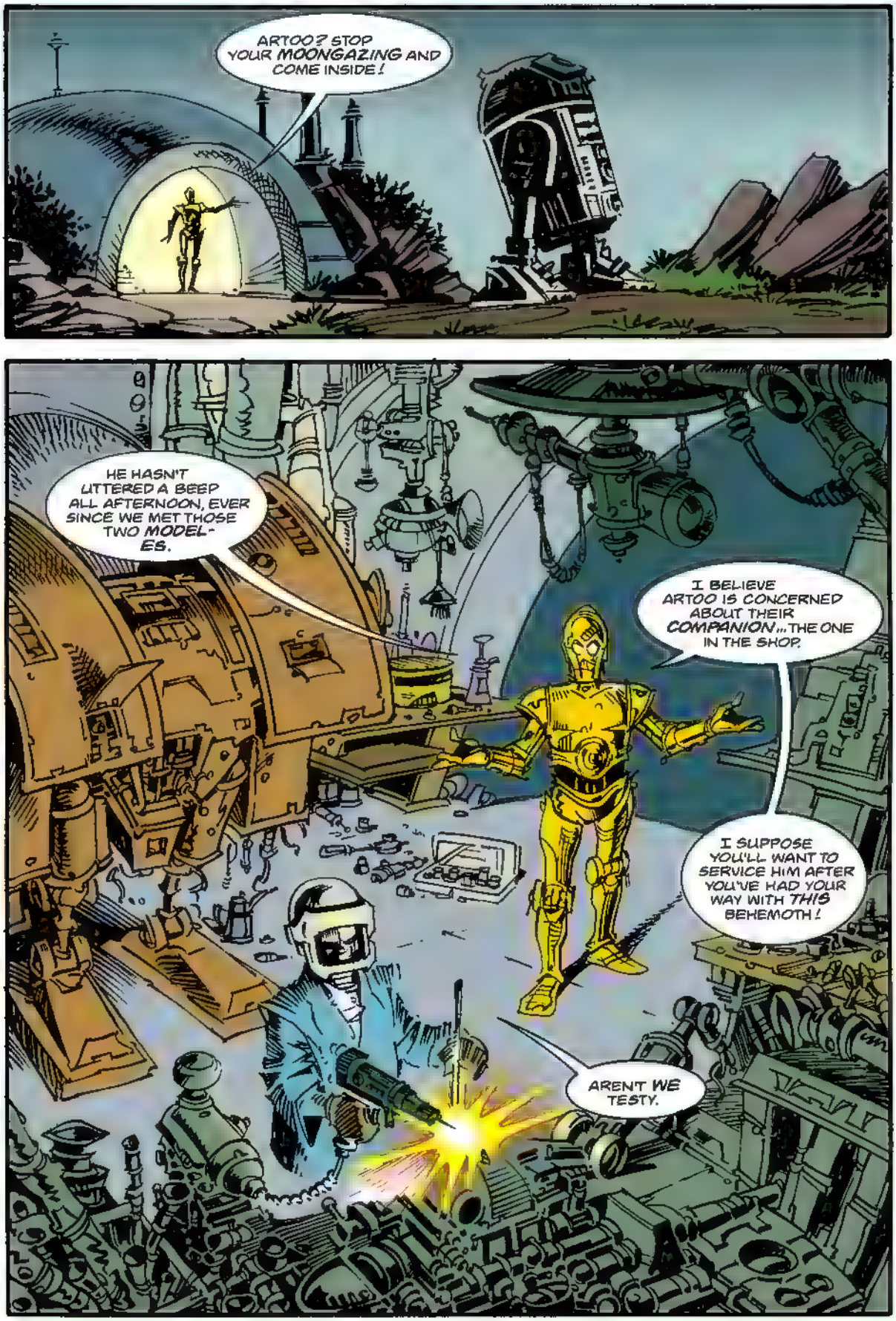

WELL, IF IT ISN'T TWO OF THE TOWN'S FAVORITE BABY SITTERS!
SAY, WHERE IS--
IN THE SHOP?
IN THE SHOP, THEY SAY? MY, MY... IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT, SEEING ONLY TWO OF THEM!

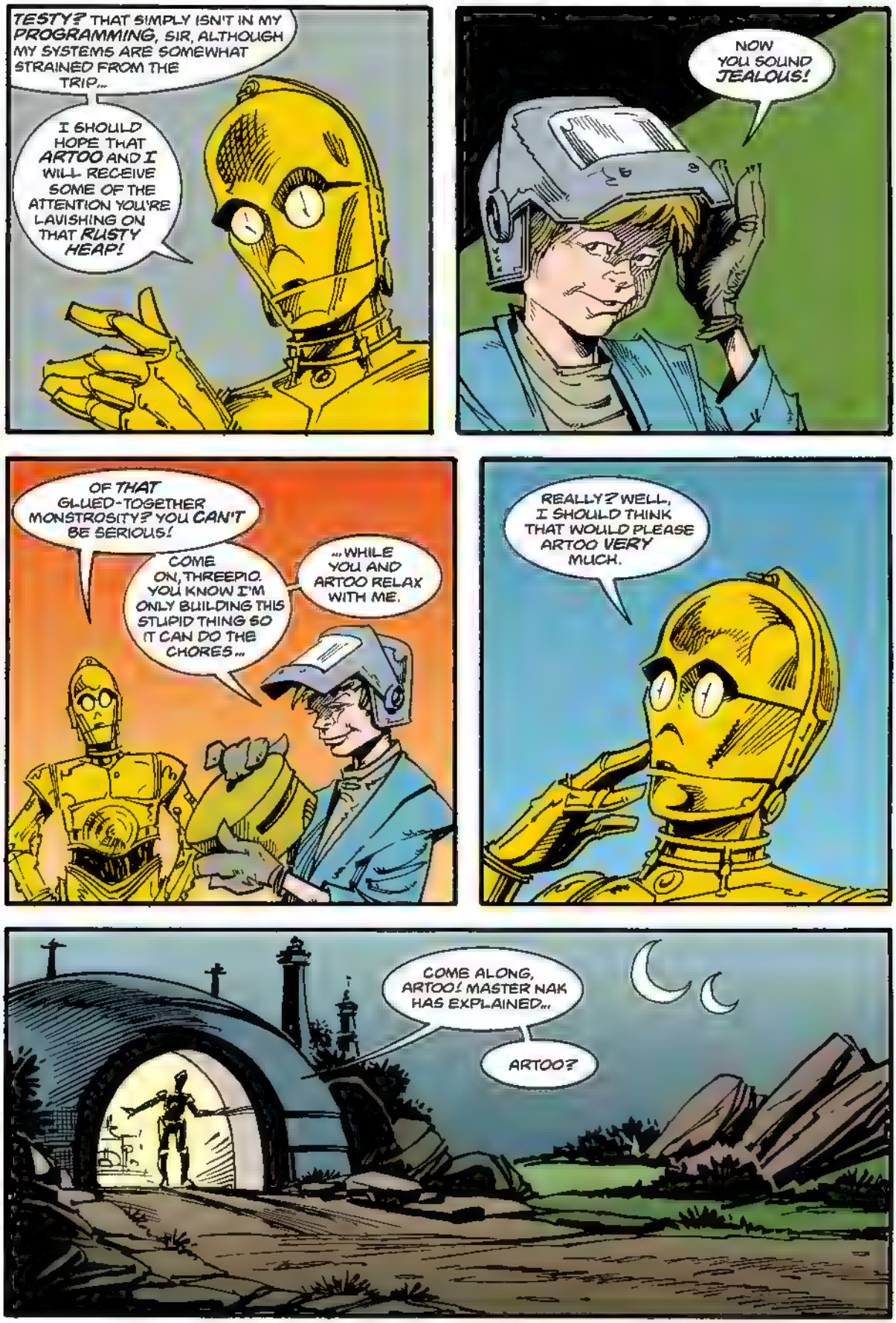


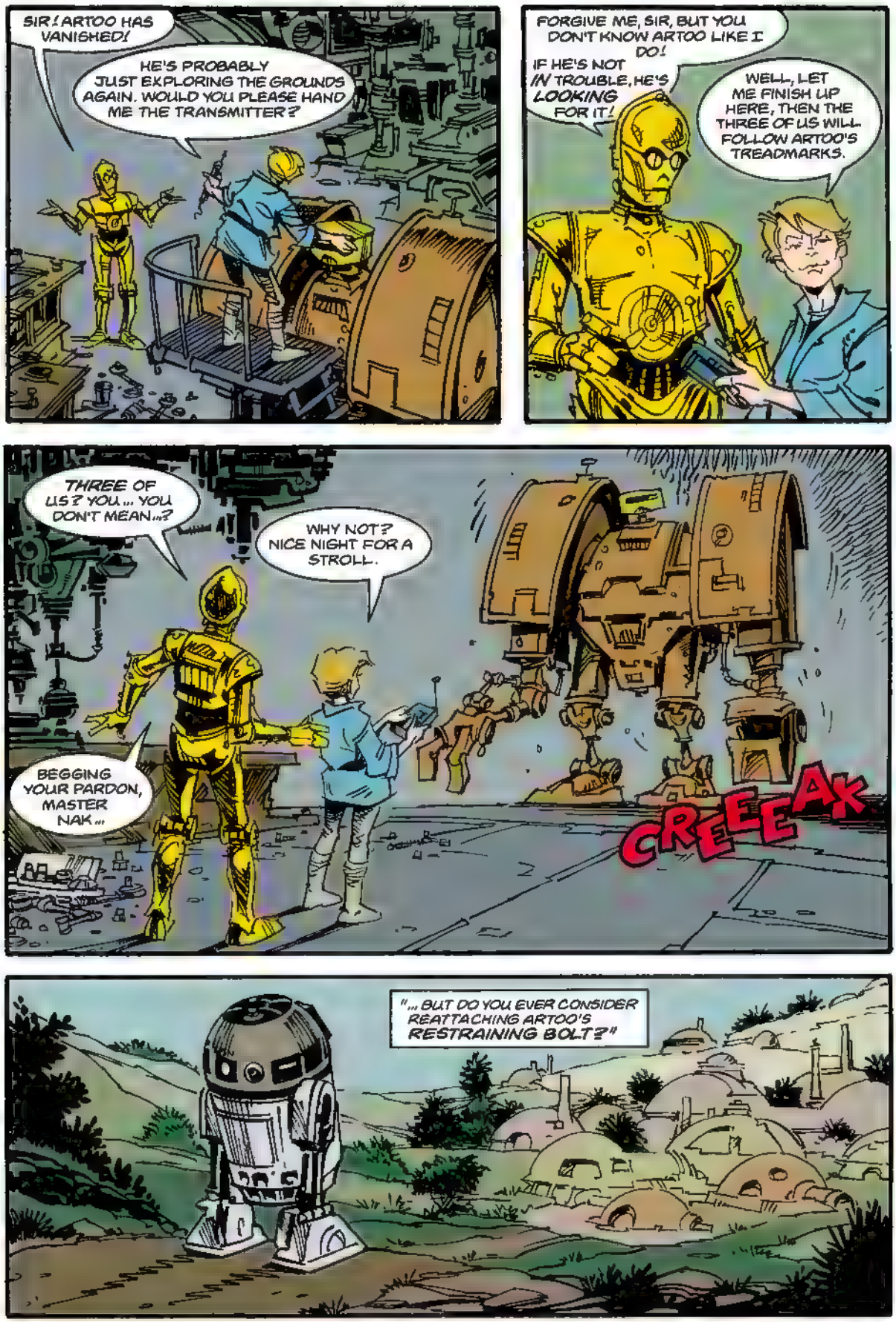


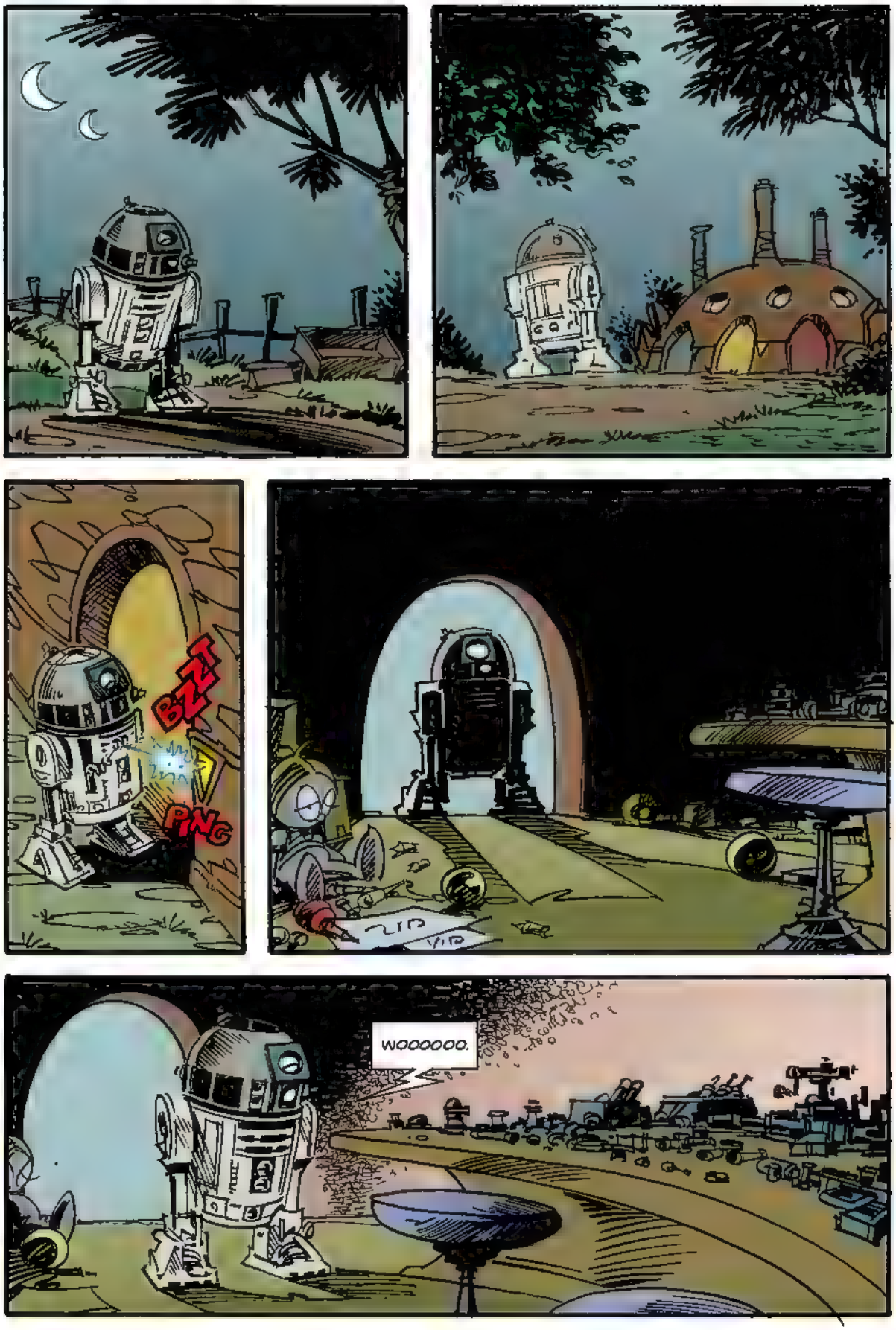


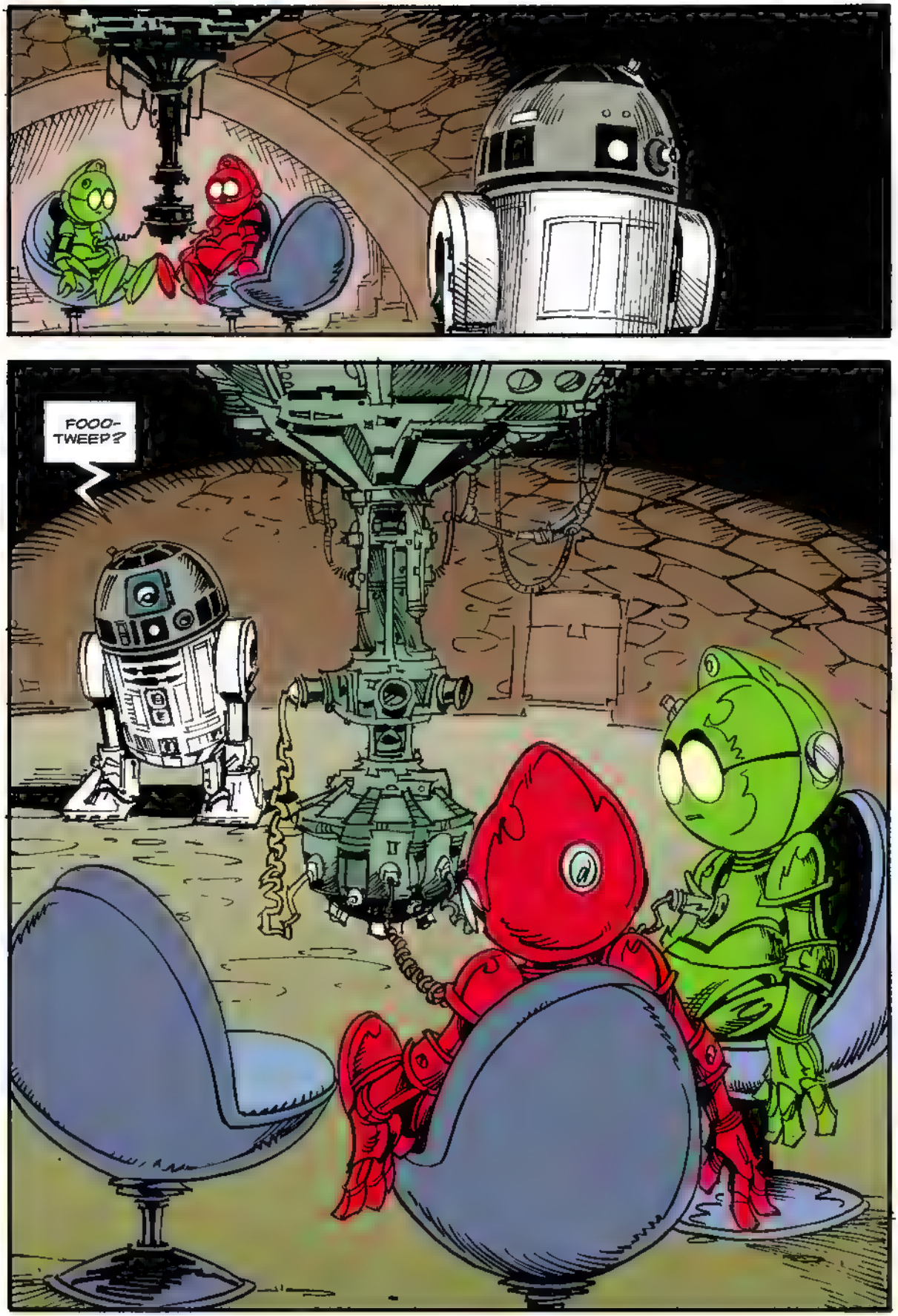

HELLO, U-E.

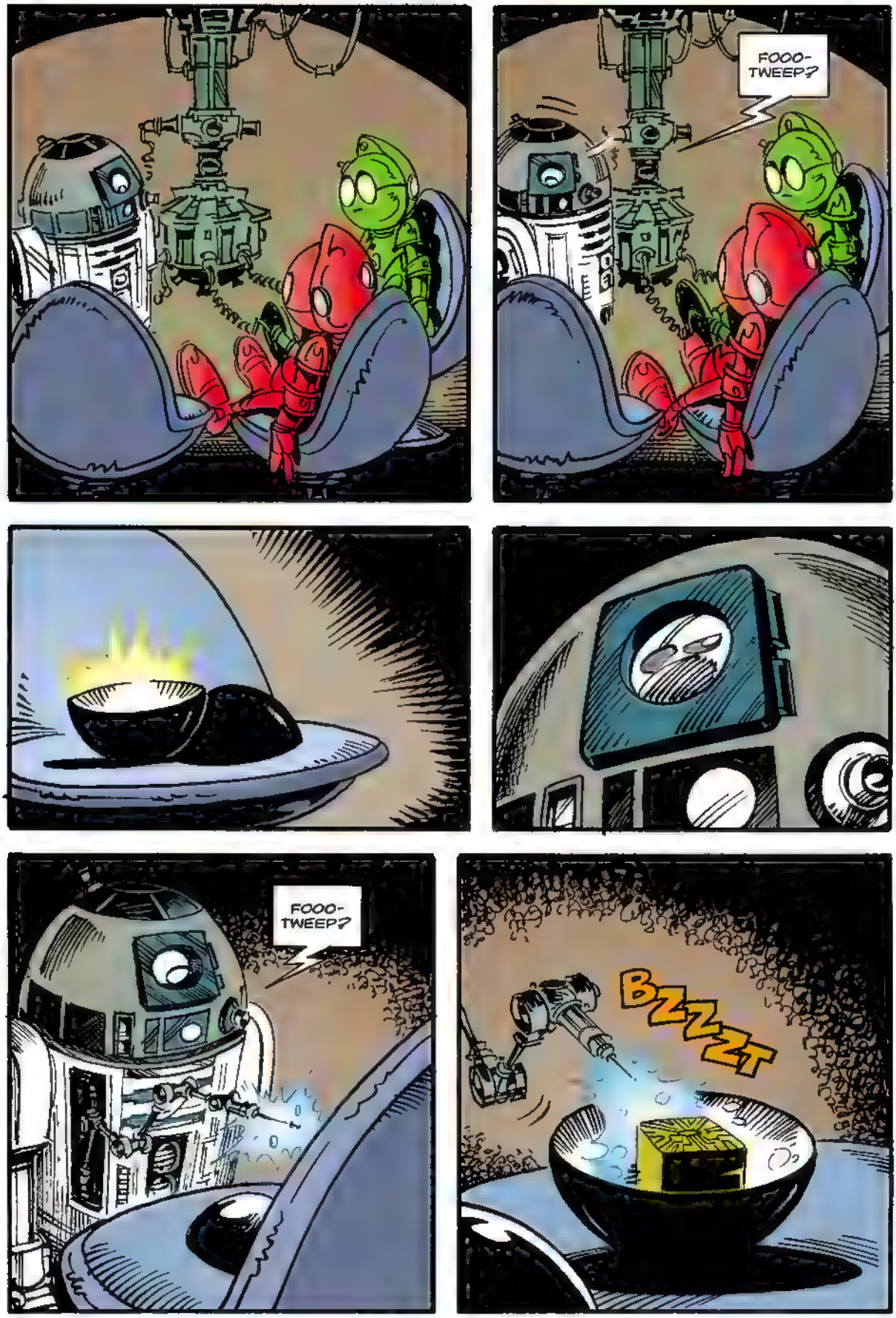

ARTOO? STOP YOUR MOONGAZING AND COME INSIDE!
HE HASN'T UTTERED A BEEP ALL AFTERNOON, EVER SINCE WE MET THOSE TWO MODEL-ES.
I BELIEVE ARTOO IS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR COMPANION... THE ONE IN THE SHOP.
I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT TO SERVICE HIM AFTER YOU'VE HAD YOUR WAY WITH THIS BEHEMOTH!
AREN'T WE TESTY.


TESTY? THAT SIMPLY ISN'T IN MY PROGRAMMING, SIR, ALTHOUGH MY SYSTEMS ARE SOMEWHAT STRAINED FROM THE TRIP...
I SHOULD HOPE THAT ARTOO AND I WILL RECEIVE SOME OF THE ATTENTION YOU'RE LAVISHING ON THAT RUSTY HEAP!
NOW YOU SOUND JEALOUS!
OF THAT GLUED-TOGETHER MONSTROSITY? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
COME ON, THREEPIO. YOU KNOW I'M ONLY BUILDING THIS STUPID THING SO IT CAN DO THE CHORES...
...WHILE YOU AND ARTOO RELAX WITH ME.
REALLY? WELL, I SHOULD THINK THAT WOULD PLEASE ARTOO VERY MUCH.
COME ALONG, ARTOO! MASTER NAK HAS EXPLAINED...
ARTOO?


SIR! ARTOO HAS VANISHED!
HE'S PROBABLY JUST EXPLORING THE GROUNDS AGAIN. WOULD YOU PLEASE HAND ME THE TRANSMITTER?
FORGIVE ME, SIR, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ARTOO LIKE I DO!
IF HE'S NOT IN TROUBLE, HE'S LOOKING FOR IT!
WELL, LET ME FINISH UP HERE, THEN THE THREE OF US WILL FOLLOW ARTOO'S TREADMARKS.
THREE OF US? YOU... YOU DON'T MEAN...?
WHY NOT? NICE NIGHT FOR A STROLL.
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MASTER NAK...
CREEEAK
"... BUT DO YOU EVER CONSIDER REATTACHING ARTOO'S RESTRAINING BOLT?"

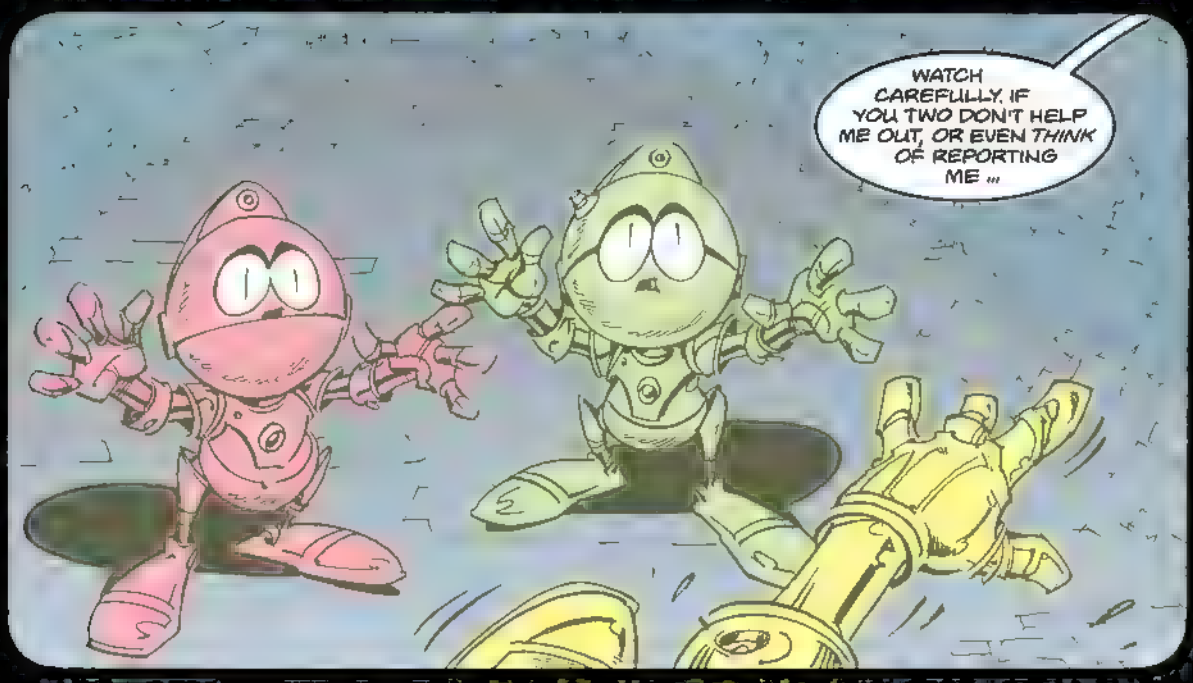

BZZT
PING
WOOOOOO.

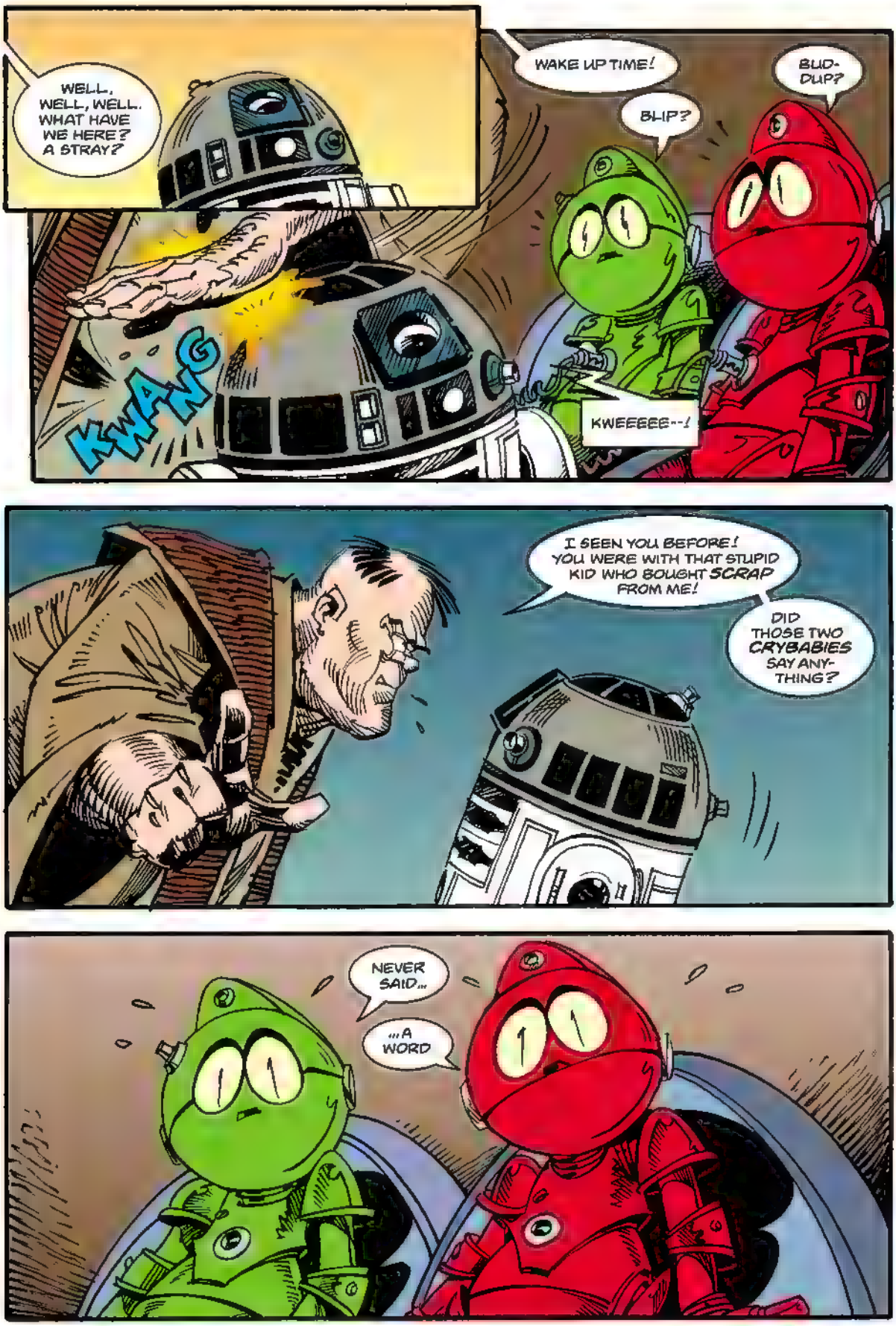

FOOO-
TWEEP?

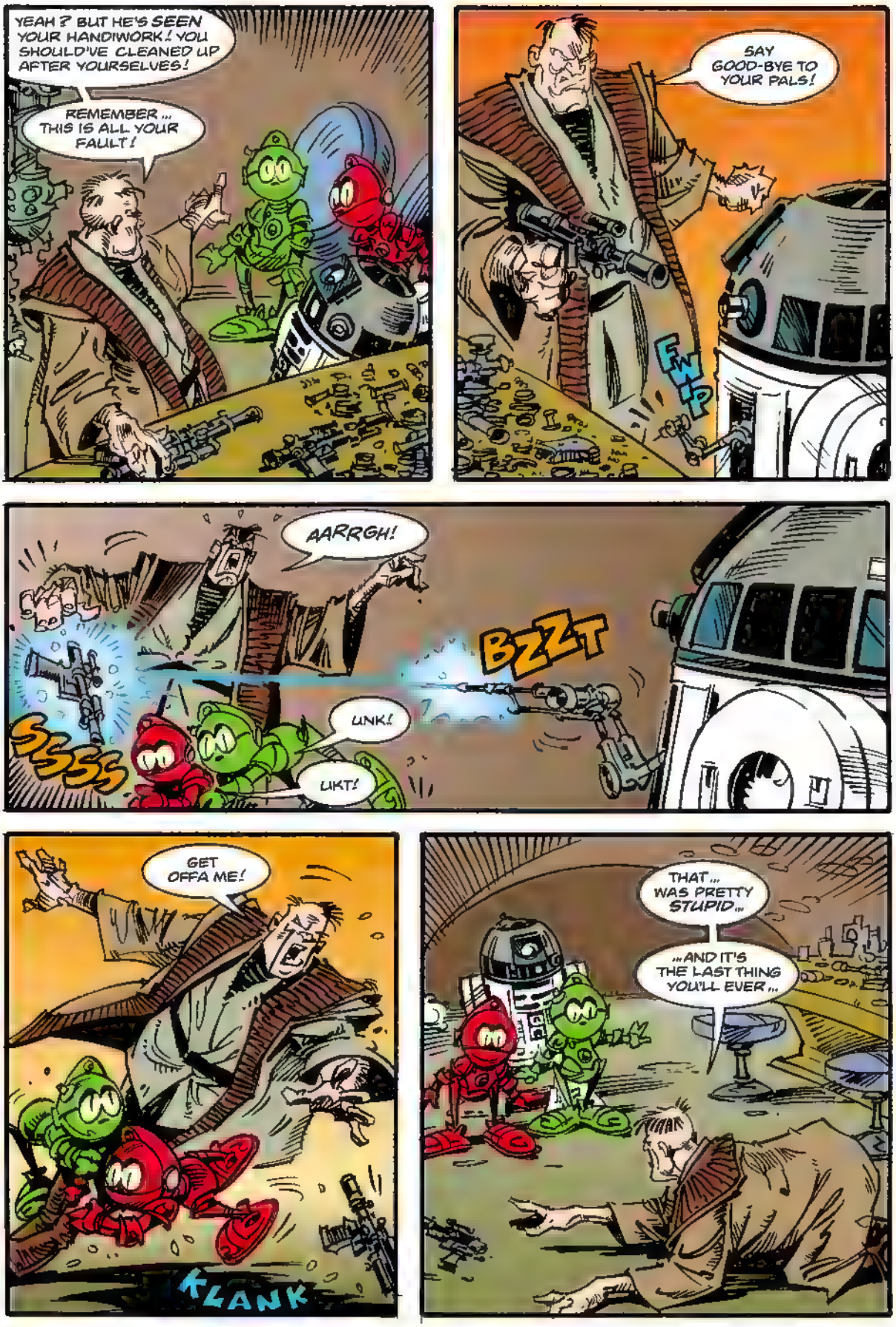

FOOO-
TWEEP?
FOOO-
TWEEP?
BZZZT

LISTEN UP, DROIDS! YOU'RE TOWN PROPERTY, SO YOU'RE JUST AS MUCH MINE AS ANYONE ELSE'S!
BUT... WE WATCH... CHILDREN.
I KNOW THAT, BUT I JUST CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND FOR MY BUSINESS. I NEED EXTRA HANDS...
BUT... AGAINST OUR PROGRAMMING.
HEY, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO FIRE ANY BLASTERS... JUST ASSEMBLE THEM FOR ME.
BUT... BUSINESS ILLEGAL.
OH, SO YOU WANNA GET TECHNICAL? I'LL SHOW YOU TECHNICAL! THERE'S NOTHIN' I HATE WORSE THAN AN UPPITY DROID!

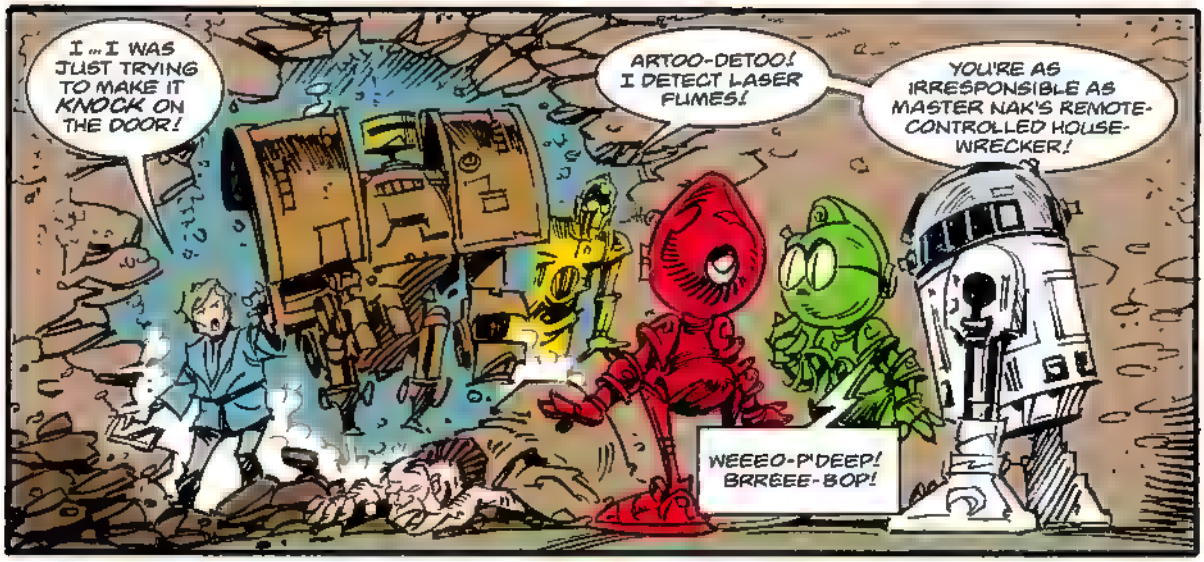
THINK YOU'RE SO CUTE, HUH?
THINK YOU'RE SO SMART?
SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR PALS!

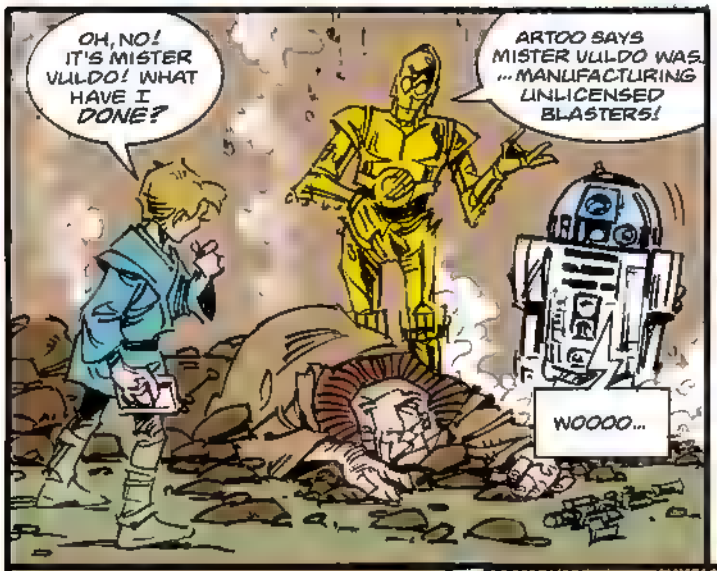

WATCH CAREFULLY. IF YOU TWO DON'T HELP ME OUT, OR EVEN THINK OF REPORTING ME ...


WELL, WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A STRAY?
KWANG
WAKE UP TIME!
BLIP?
BUD-DUP?
KWEEEEE--!
I SEEN YOU BEFORE! YOU WERE WITH THAT STUPID KID WHO BOUGHT SCRAP FROM ME!
DID THOSE TWO CRYBABIES SAY ANY-THING?
NEVER SAID...
...A WORD

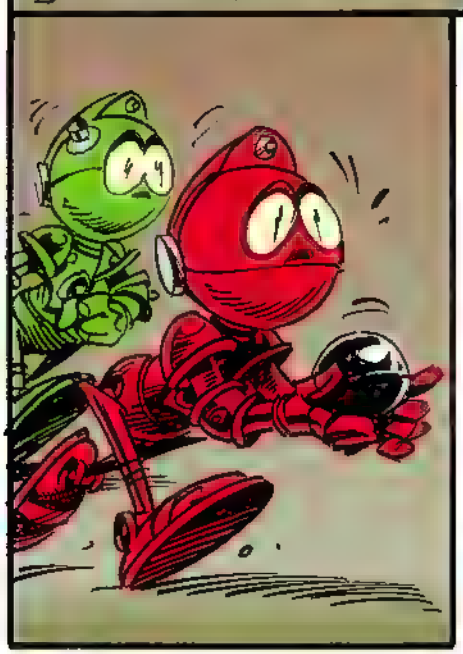

YEAH ? BUT HE'S SEEN YOUR HANDIWORK ! YOU SHOULD'VE CLEANED UP AFTER YOURSELVES !
REMEMBER ... THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT !
SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR PALS !
FWIP
AARRGH !
BZZT
SSSS
UNK !
UKT !
GET OFFA ME !
KLANK
THAT ... WAS PRETTY STUPID ...
... AND IT'S THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER ...

KKRAAASH
YAAAAGH!
I-I-
ULP!
uuuuhhh...
SMASH

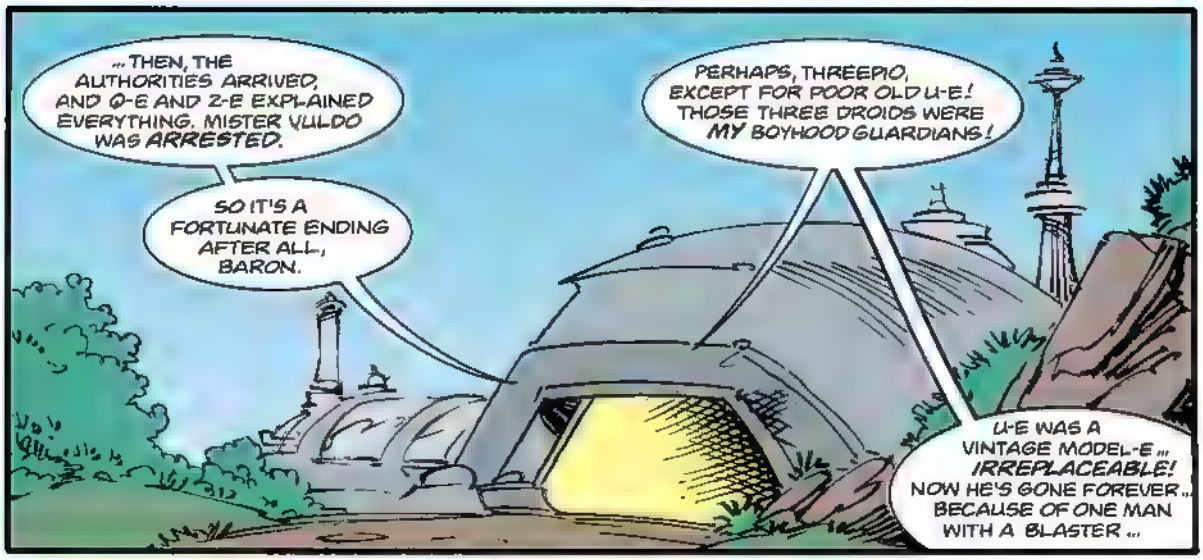

I ... I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE IT KNOCK ON THE DOOR!
ARTOO-DETOO! I DETECT LASER FUMES!
YOU'RE AS IRRESPONSIBLE AS MASTER NAK'S REMOTE-CONTROLLED HOUSE-WRECKER!
WEEEO-P'DEEP! BRREEE-BOP!

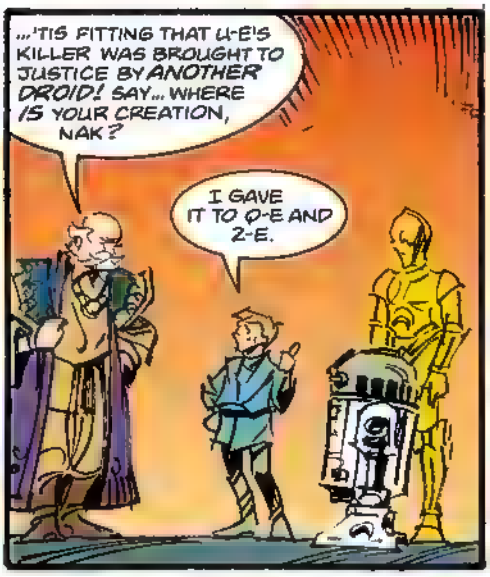

OH, NO! IT'S MISTER VULDO! WHAT HAVE I DONE?
ARTOO SAYS MISTER VULDO WAS ... MANUFACTURING UNLICENSED BLASTERS!
WOOOO...

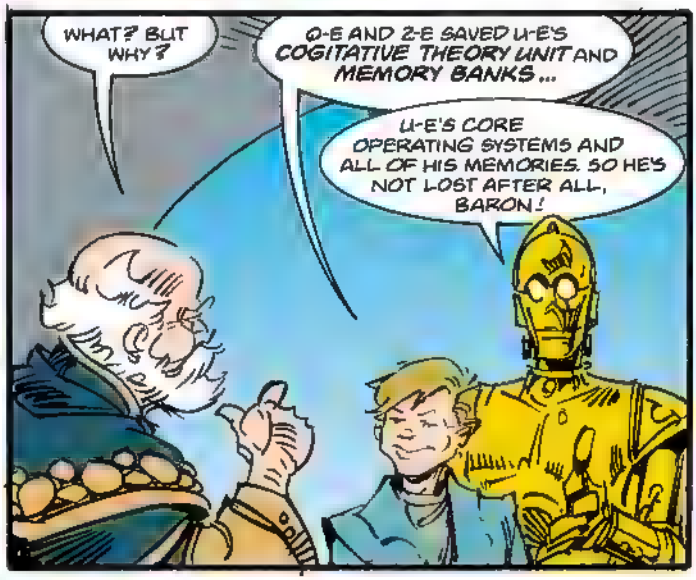
WHAT?! WHERE ARE Q-E AND Z-E?!

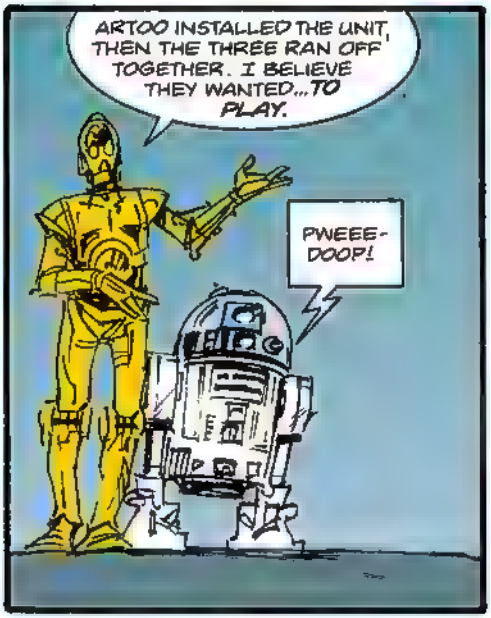


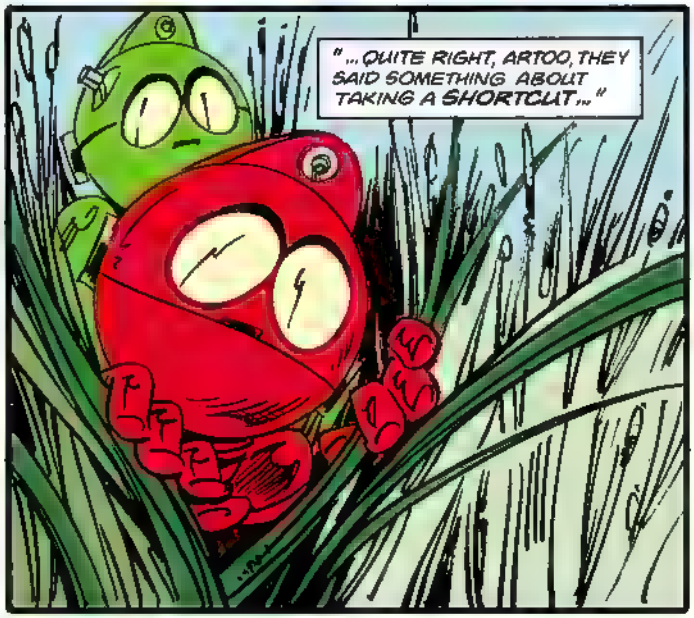
CAN BIG ONE...
... BE OUR FRIEND?

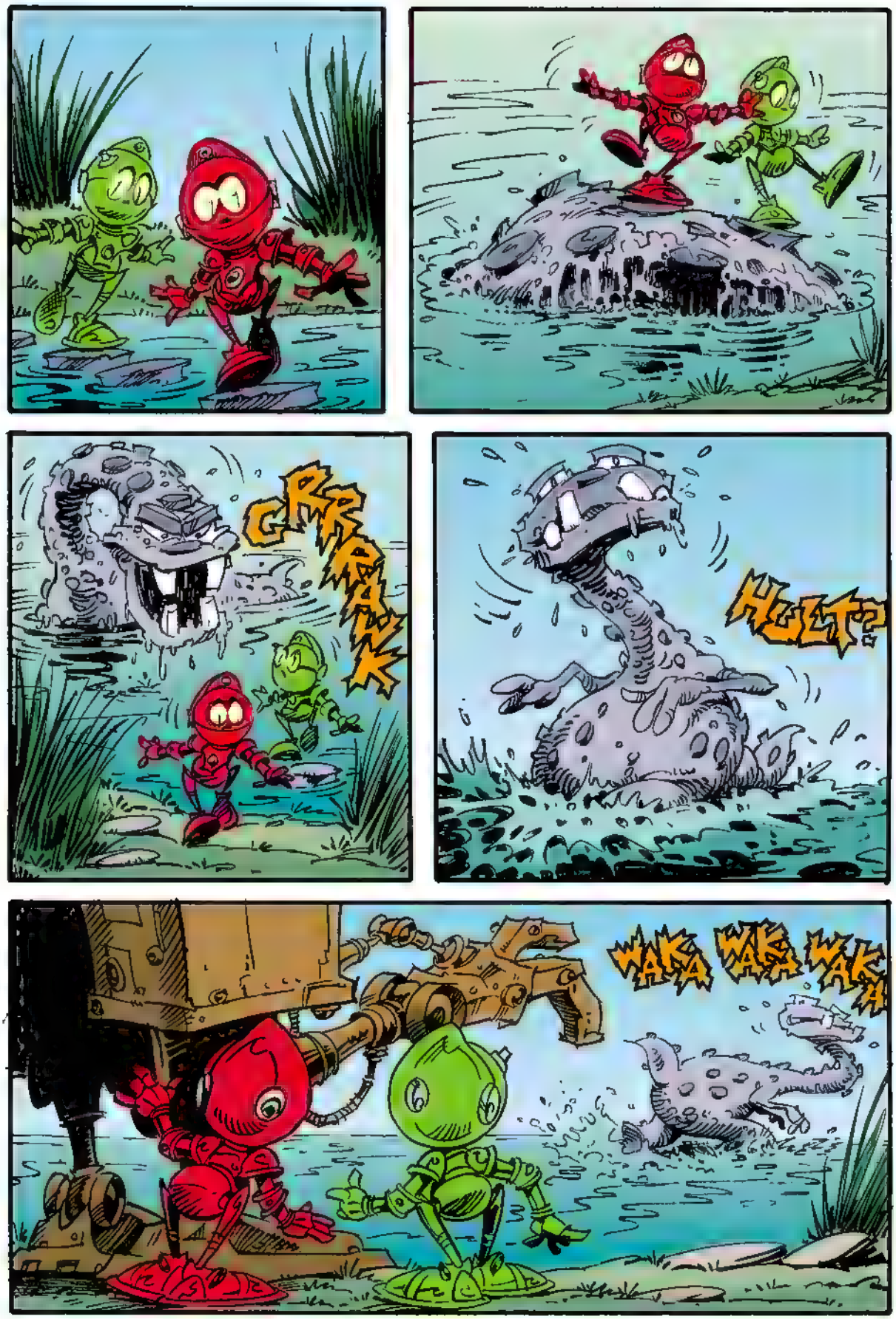

...THEN, THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVED, AND Q-E AND Z-E EXPLAINED EVERYTHING. MISTER VULDO WAS ARRESTED.
SO IT'S A FORTUNATE ENDING AFTER ALL, BARON.
PERHAPS, THREEPIO, EXCEPT FOR POOR OLD U-E! THOSE THREE DROIDS WERE MY BOYHOOD GUARDIANS!
U-E WAS A VINTAGE MODEL-E... IRREPLACEABLE! NOW HE'S GONE FOREVER... BECAUSE OF ONE MAN WITH A BLASTER...


...'TIS FITTING THAT U-E'S KILLER WAS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE BY ANOTHER DROID! SAY... WHERE IS YOUR CREATION, NAK?
I GAVE IT TO Q-E AND Z-E.

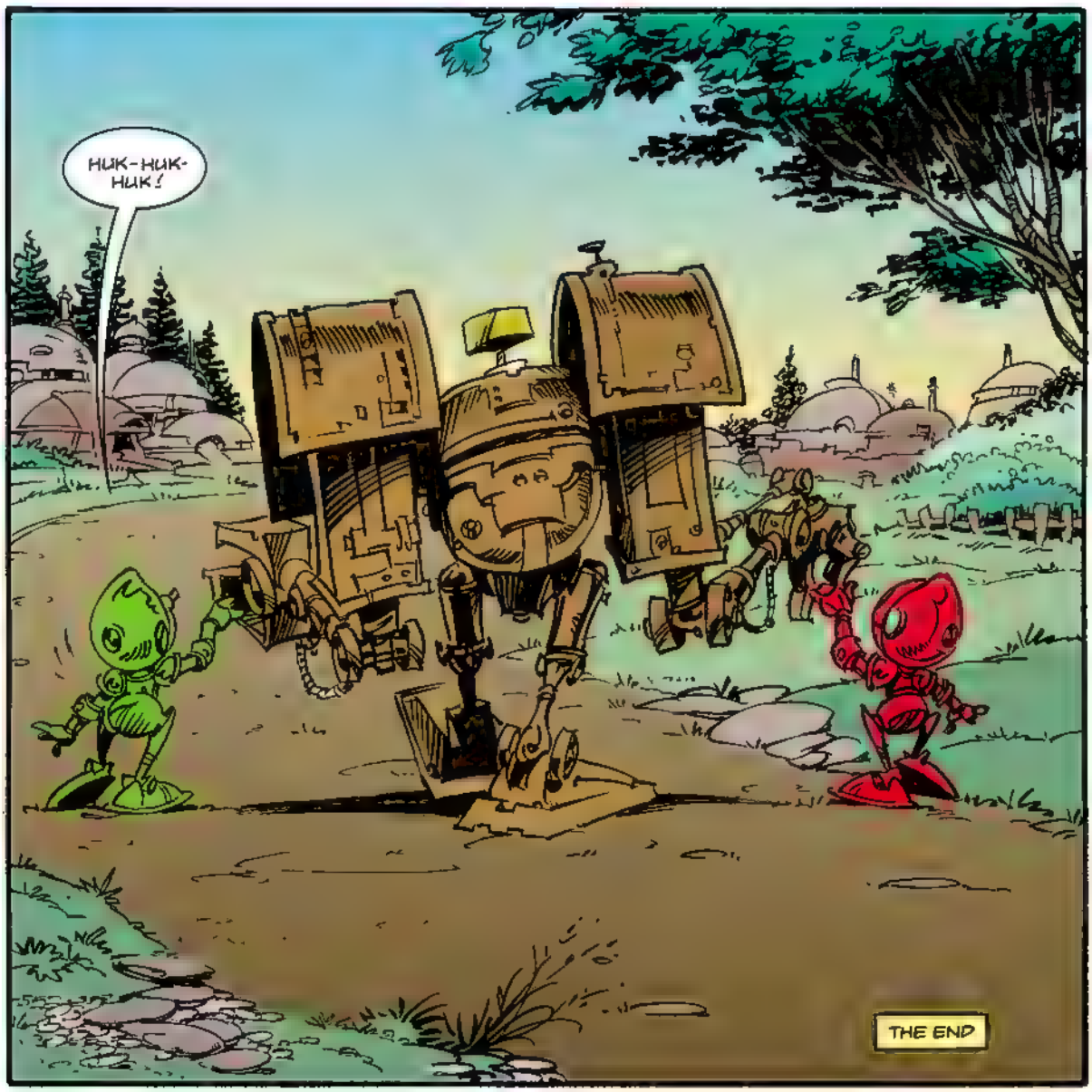

WHAT? BUT WHY?
Q-E AND Z-E SAVED U-E'S COGITATIVE THEORY UNIT AND MEMORY BANKS...
U-E'S CORE OPERATING SYSTEMS AND ALL OF HIS MEMORIES. SO HE'S NOT LOST AFTER ALL, BARON!

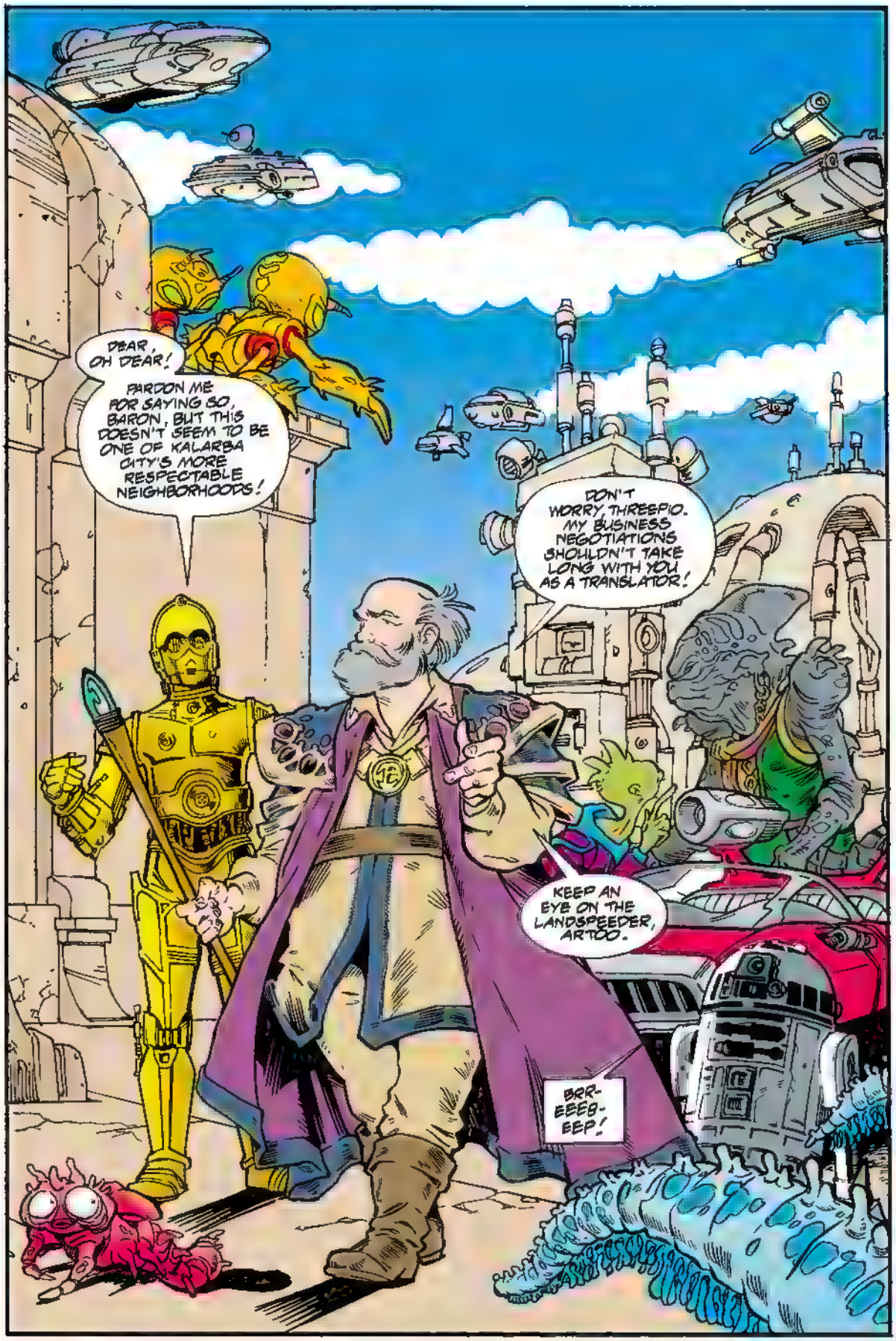

ARTOO INSTALLED THE UNIT, THEN THE THREE RAN OFF TOGETHER. I BELIEVE THEY WANTED... TO PLAY.
PWEEE-DOOP!

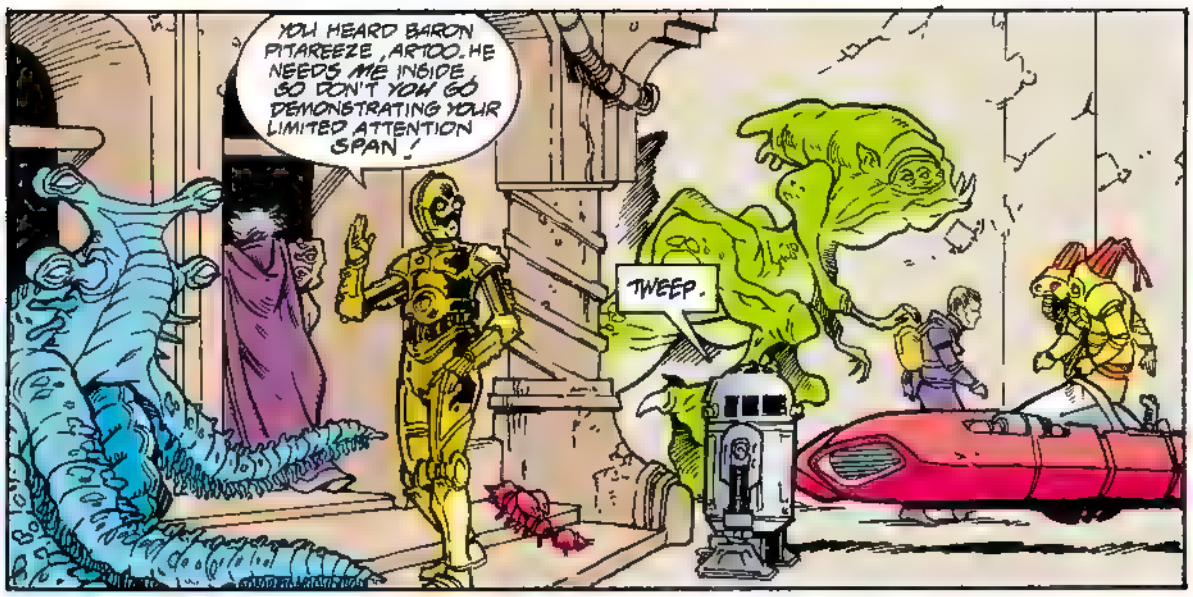

"...QUITE RIGHT, ARTOO, THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT TAKING A SHORTCUT..."

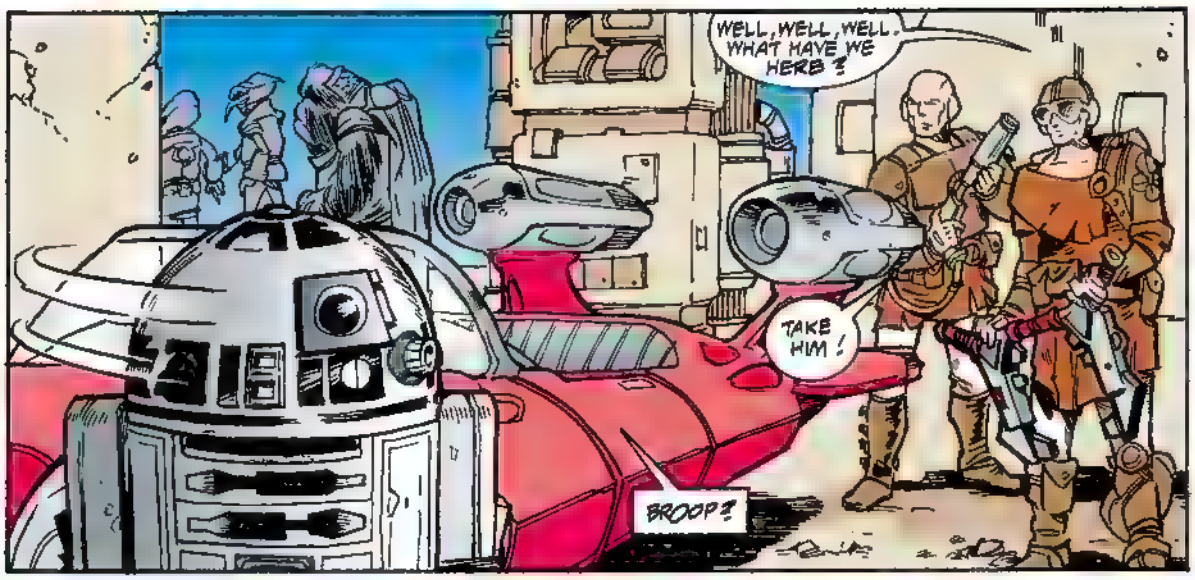

GRRRAWK
HULK?
WAKA WAKA WAKA

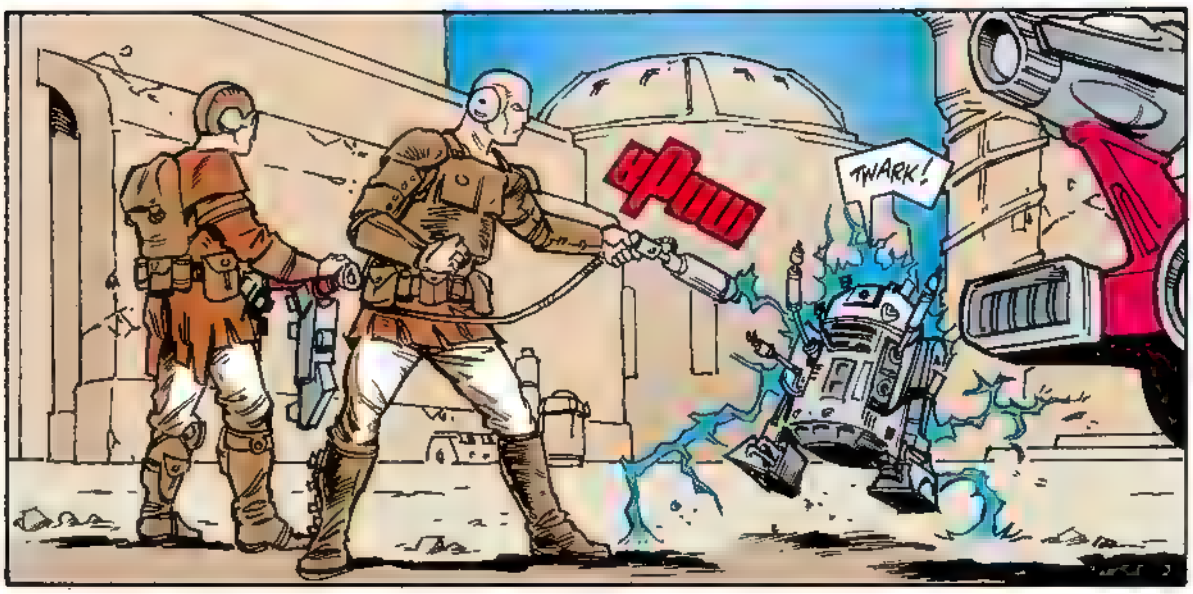
"WAKA-WAKA-WAKA?!"
GLEEP!
HUK-HUK-HUK!

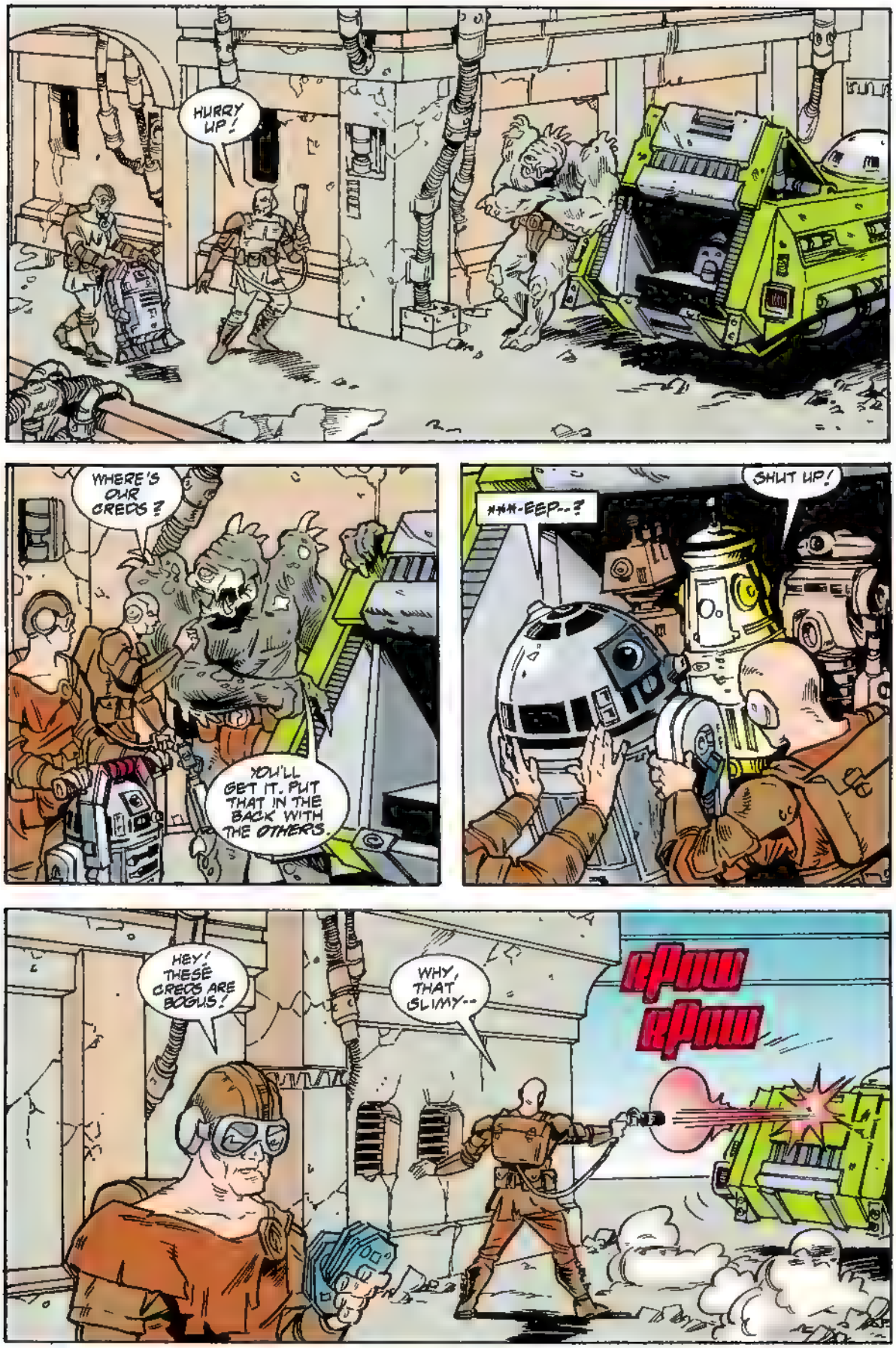

HUK-HUK-HUK!
THE END

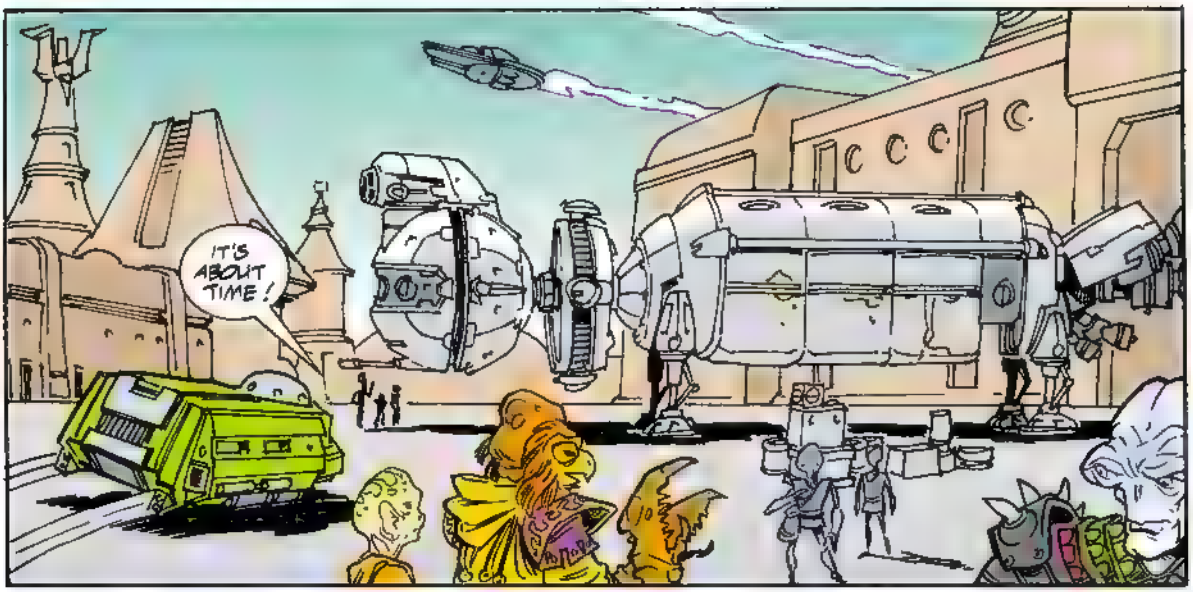

DEAR, OH DEAR!
PARDON ME FOR SAYING SO, BARON, BUT THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ONE OF KALARBA CITY'S MORE RESPECTABLE NEIGHBORHOODS!
DON'T WORRY, THREEPIO. MY BUSINESS NEGOTIATIONS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG WITH YOU AS A TRANSLATOR!
KEEP AN EYE ON THE LANDSPEEDER, ARTOO.
BRR-EEEB-EEP!

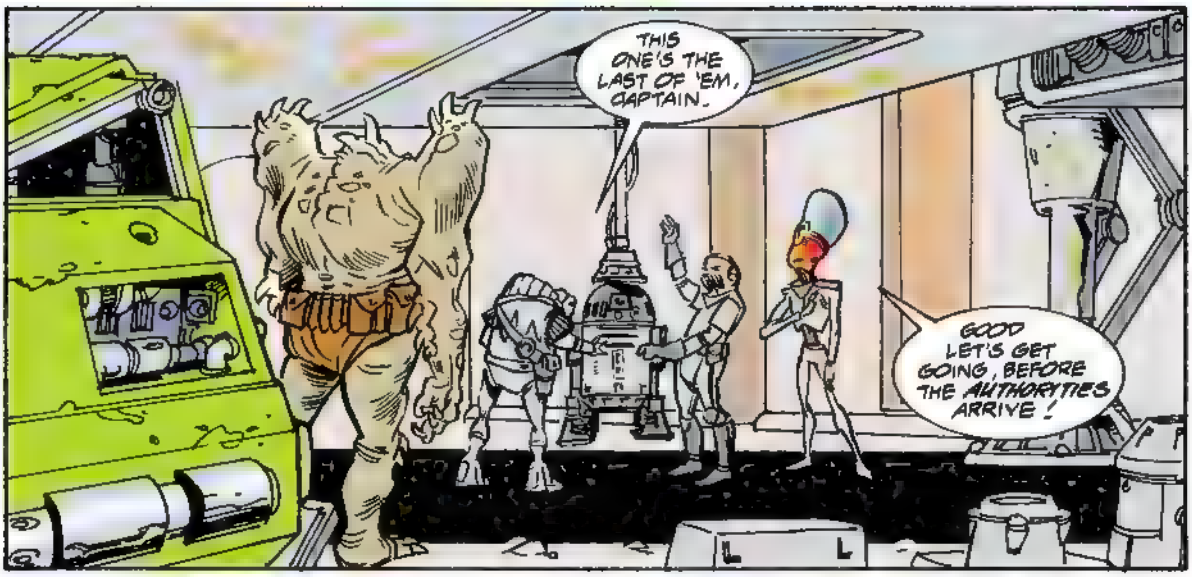

YOU HEARD BARON PITAREEZE, ARTOO. HE NEEDS ME INSIDE, SO DON'T YOU GO DEMONSTRATING YOUR LIMITED ATTENTION SPAN!
TWEEP.

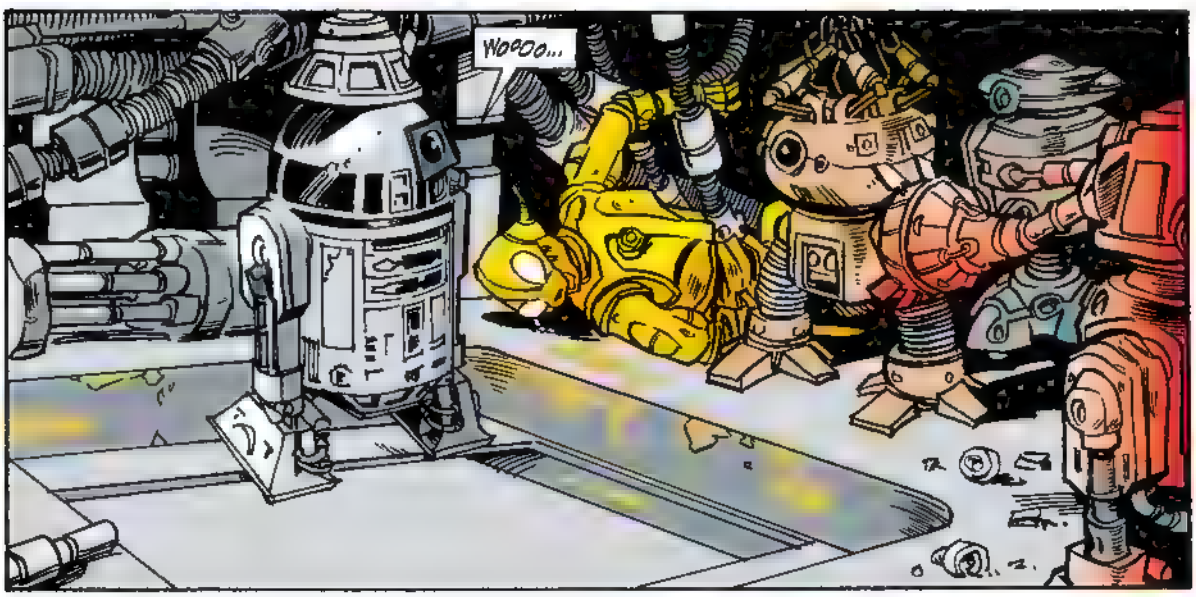

WELL, WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
TAKE HIM!
BROOP?

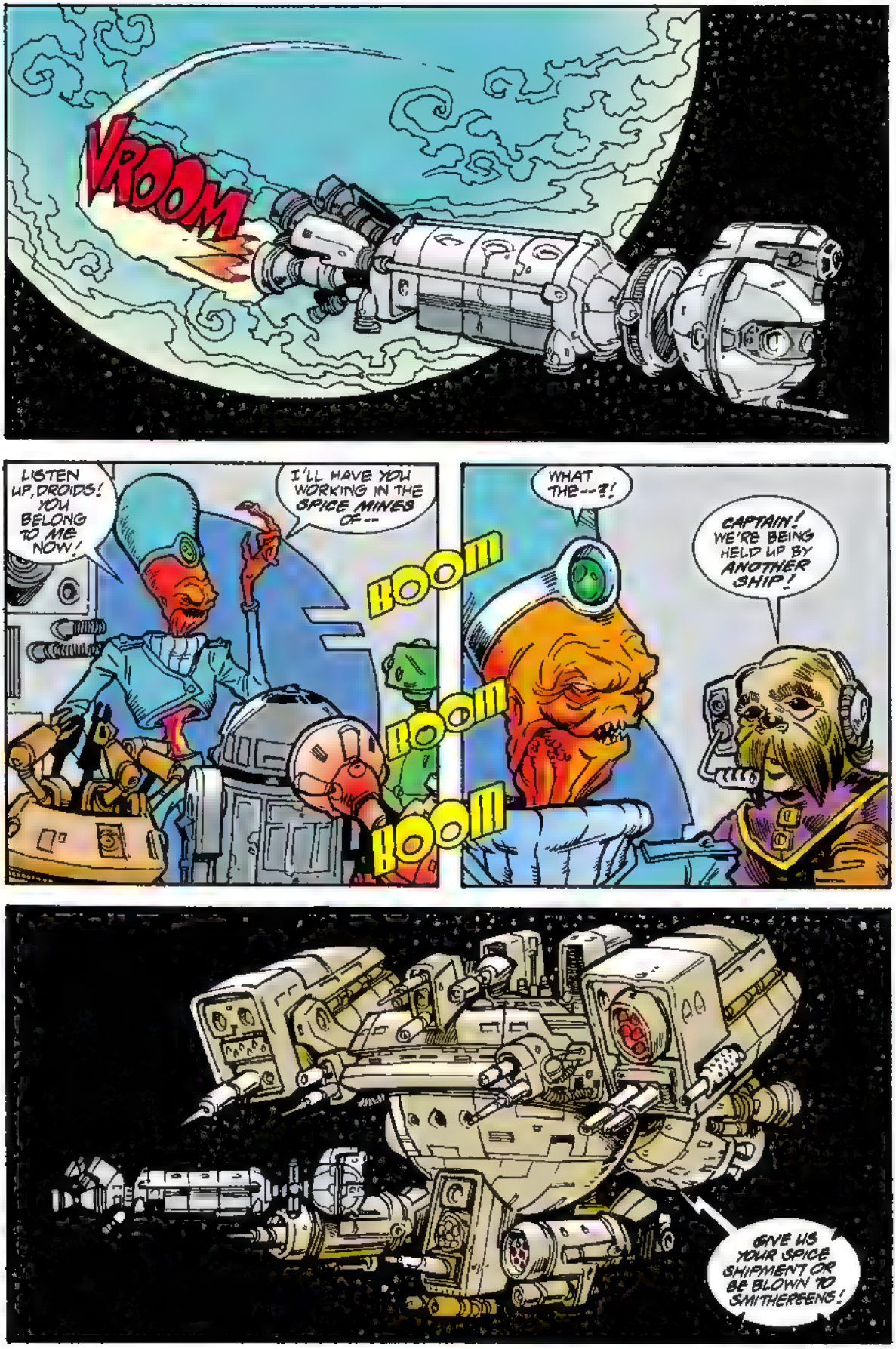

TWARK!

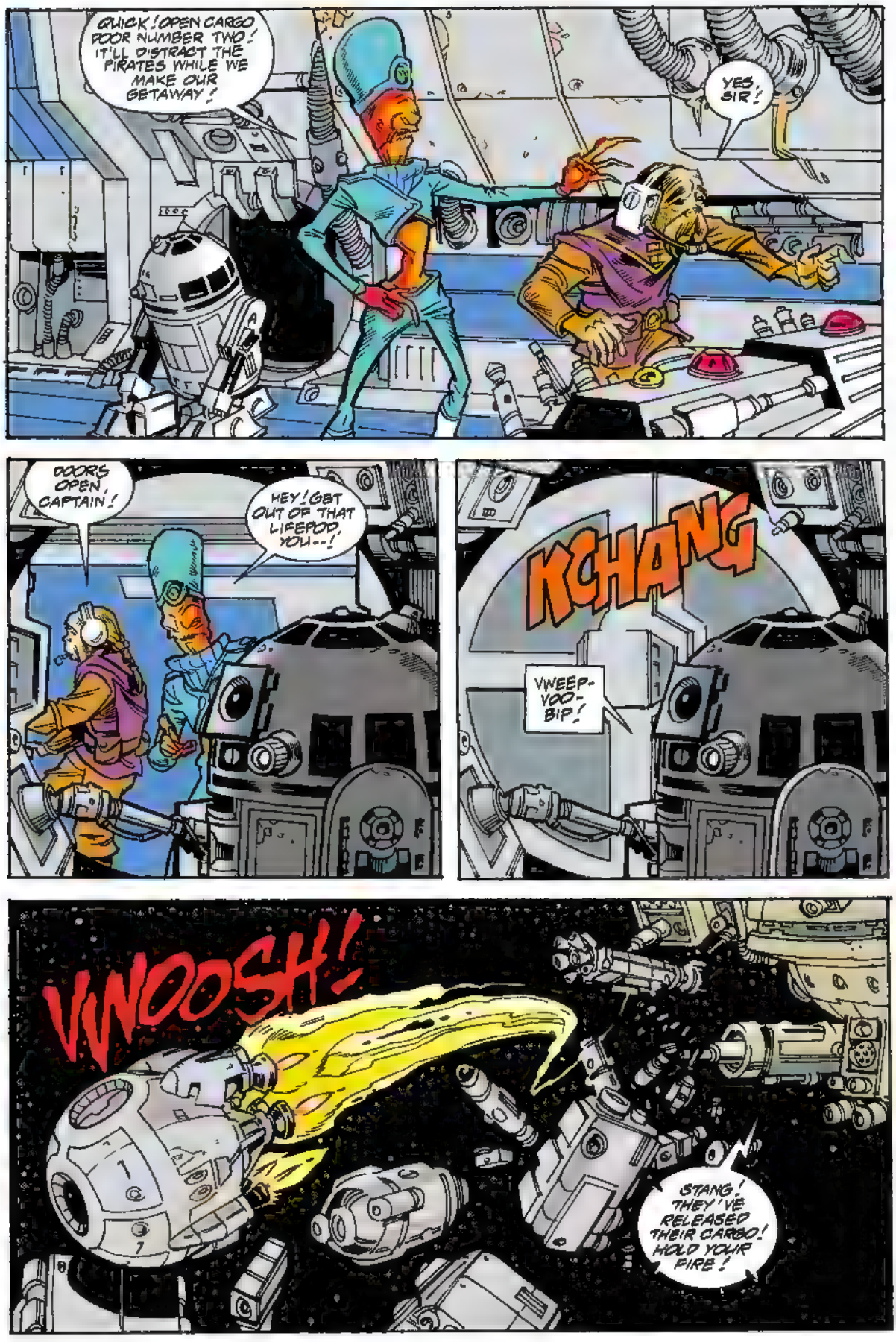

HURRY UP!
WHERE'S OUR CREDS?
YOU'LL GET IT. PUT THAT IN THE BACK WITH THE OTHERS.
#%%-EEP--?
SHUT UP!
HEY! THESE CREDS ARE BOGUS!
WHY, THAT SLIMY--
KPOW
KPOW

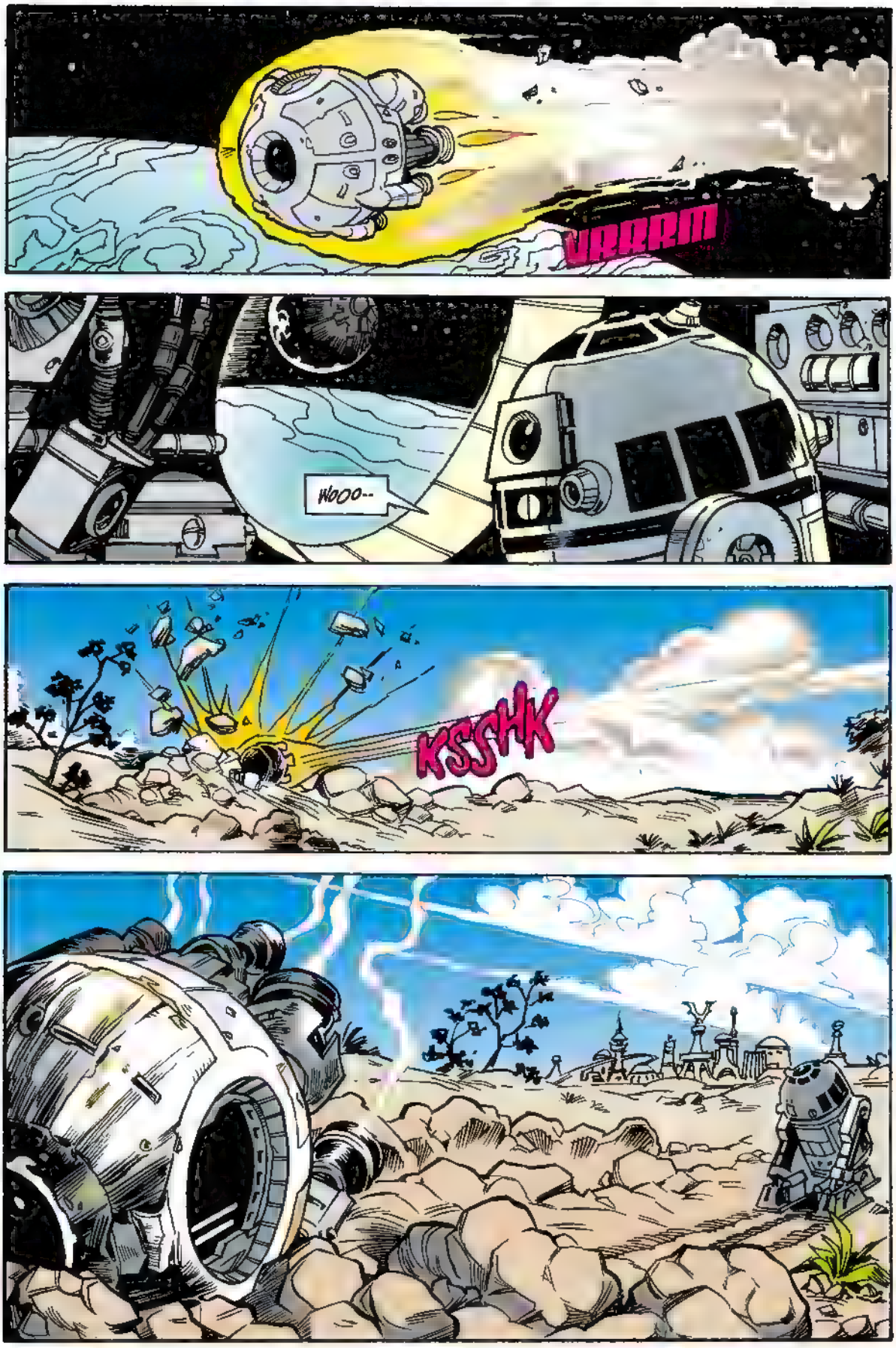

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

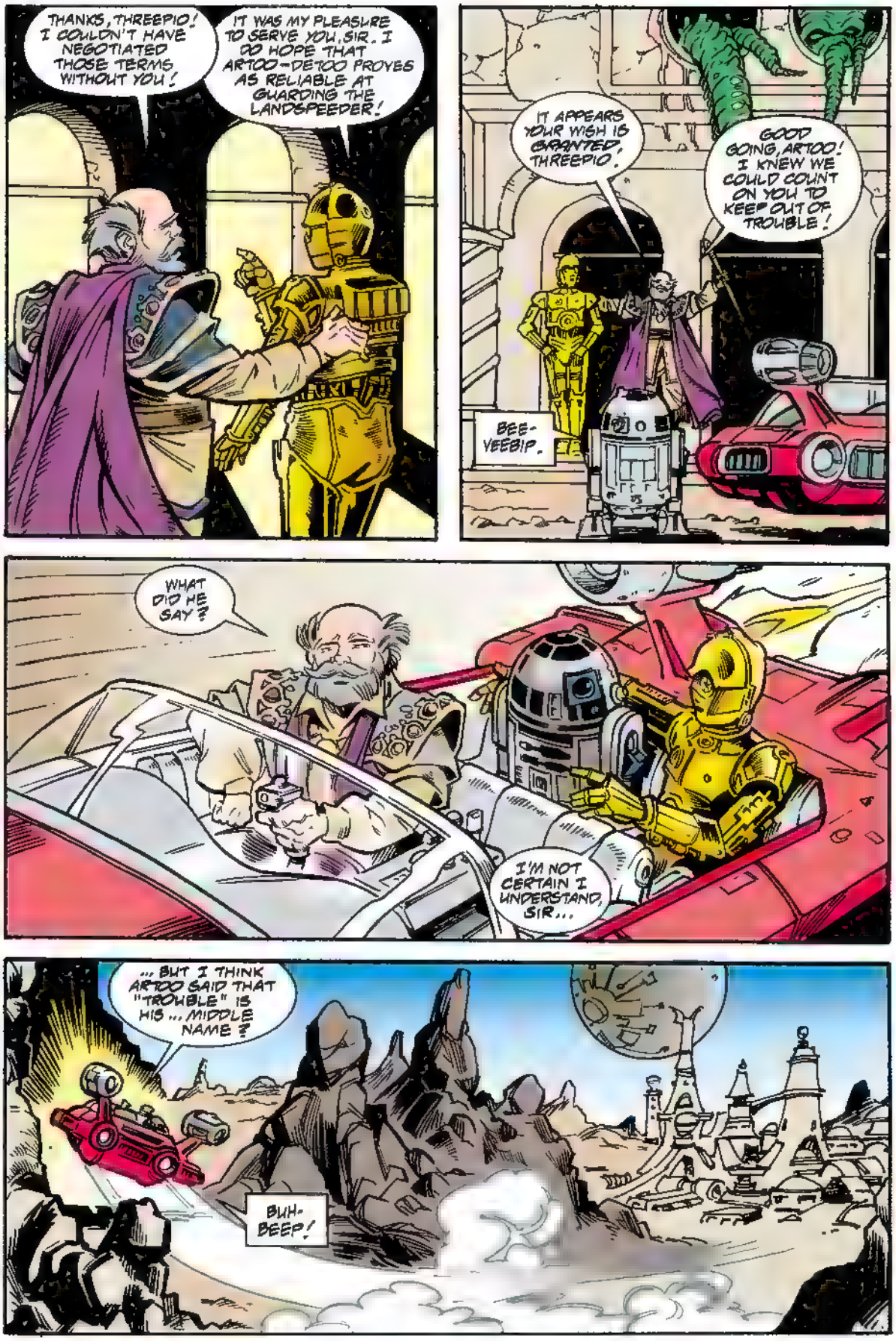

THIS ONE'S THE LAST OF 'EM, CAPTAIN.
GOOD LET'S GET GOING, BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE!

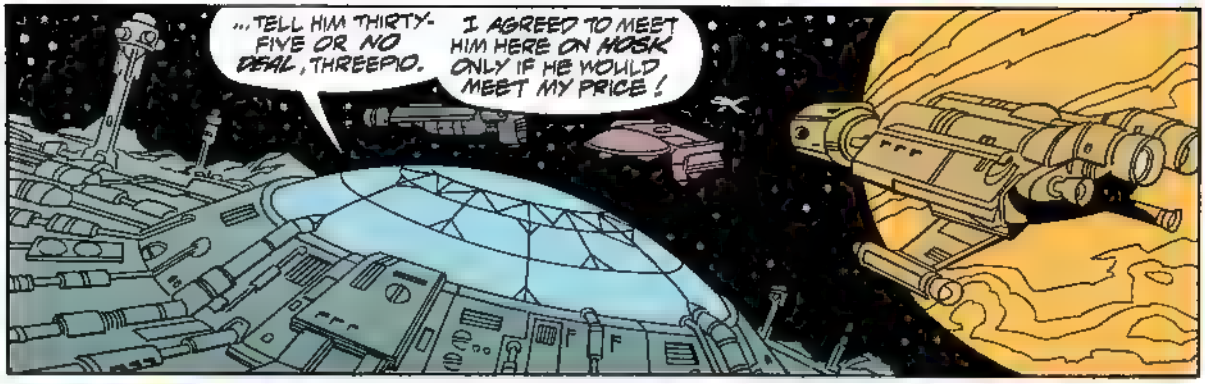

WOOOO...

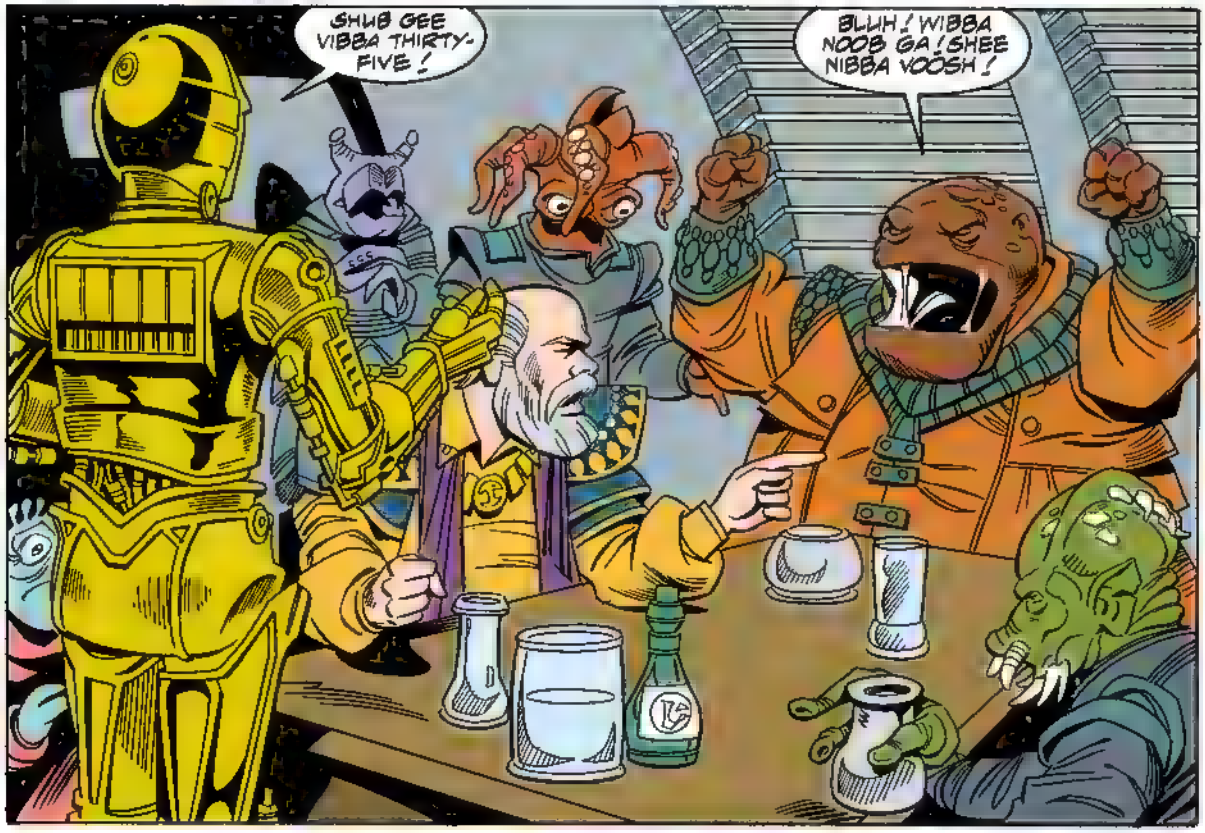

VROOM
LISTEN UP, DROIDS! YOU BELONG TO ME NOW!
I'LL HAVE YOU WORKING IN THE SPICE MINES OF--
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WHAT THE--?!
CAPTAIN! WE'RE BEING HELD UP BY ANOTHER SHIP!
GIVE US YOUR SPICE SHIPMENT OR BE BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS!

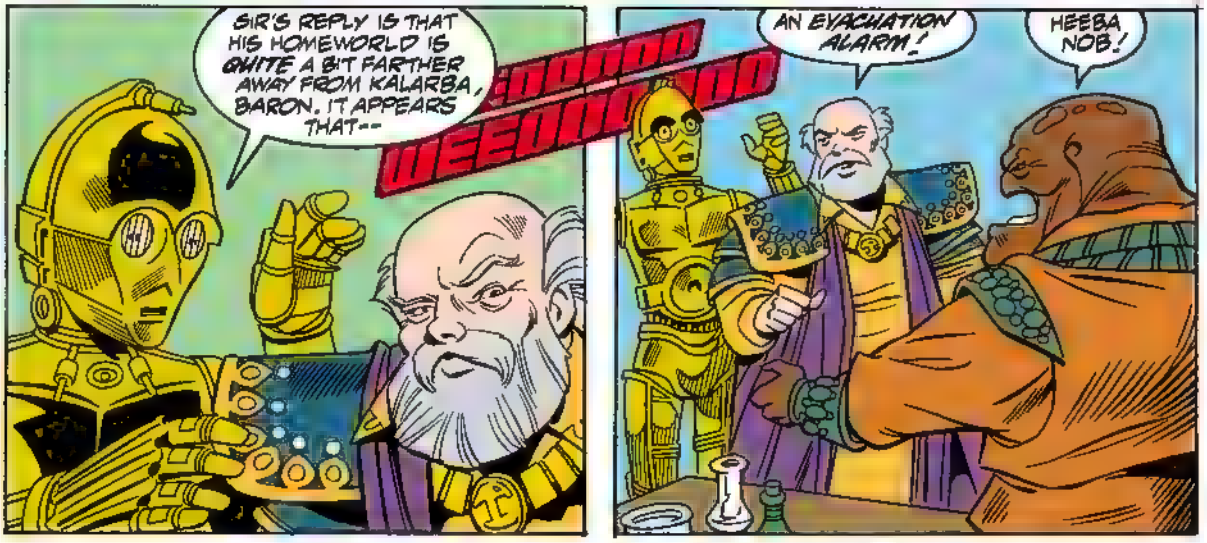

QUICK! OPEN CARGO DOOR NUMBER TWO! IT'LL DISTRACT THE PIRATES WHILE WE MAKE OUR GETAWAY!
YES SIR!
DOORS OPEN, CAPTAIN!
HEY! GET OUT OF THAT LIFEPOD, YOU--!
KCHANG
VWEEP-VOO-BIP!
VWOOSH!
STANG! THEY'VE RELEASED THEIR CARGO! HOLD YOUR FIRE!


VRRRM
WOOO--
KSSHK

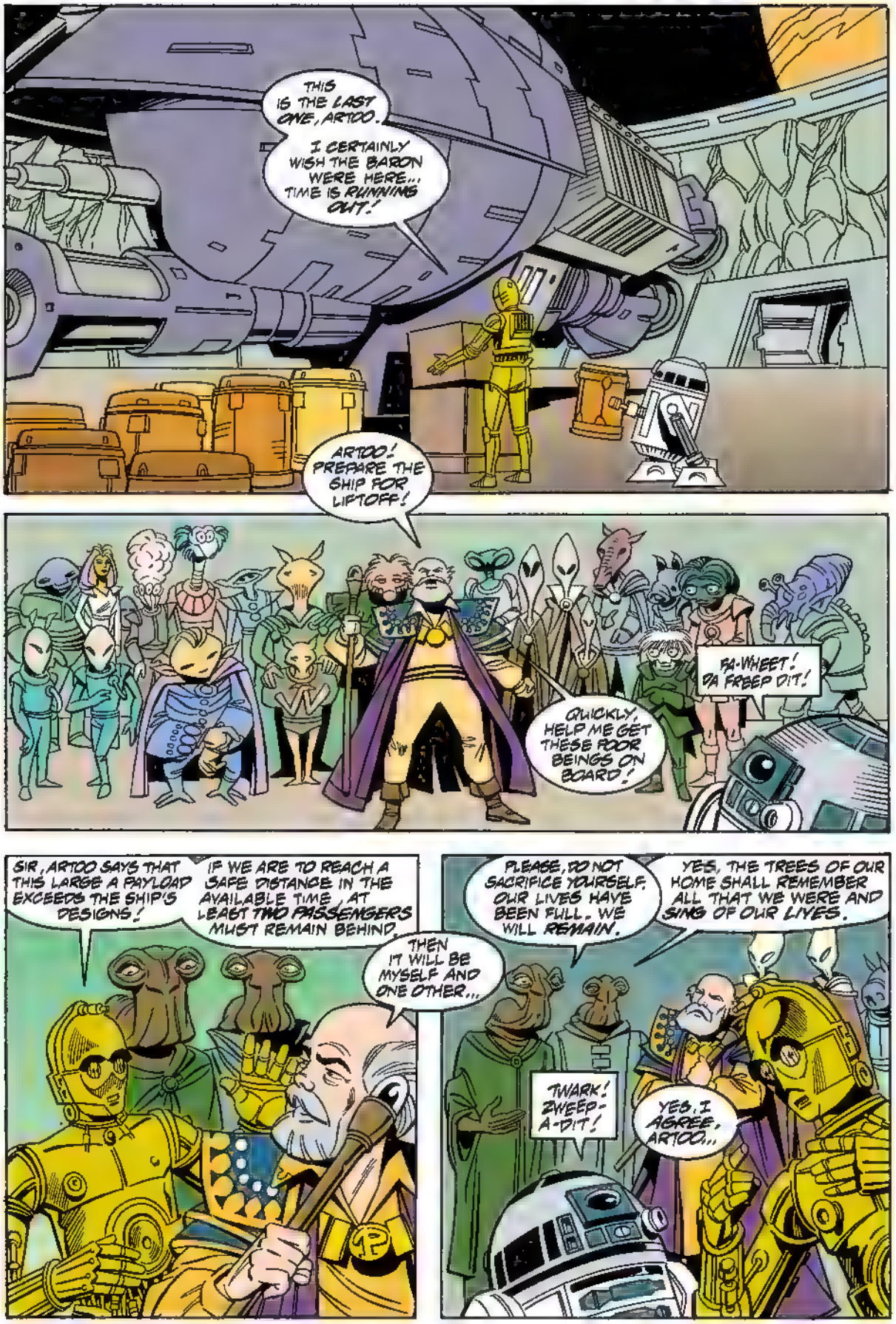

THANKS, THREEPIO! I COULDN'T HAVE NEGOTIATED THOSE TERMS WITHOUT YOU!
IT WAS MY PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU, SIR. I DO HOPE THAT ARTOO-DETOO PROVES AS RELIABLE AT GUARDING THE LANDSPEEDER!
IT APPEARS YOUR WISH IS GRANTED, THREEPIO.
GOOD GOING, ARTOO! I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE!
BEE-YEEBIP.
WHAT DID HE SAY?
I'M NOT CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND, SIR...
... BUT I THINK ARTOO SAID THAT "TROUBLE" IS HIS ... MIDDLE NAME?
BUH-BEEP!


...TELL HIM THIRTY-FIVE OR NO DEAL, THREEPIO.
I AGREED TO MEET HIM HERE ON MOSK ONLY IF HE WOULD MEET MY PRICE!


SHUB GEE VIBBA THIRTY-FIVE!
BLUH! WIBBA NOOB GA! SHEE NIBBA VOOSH!

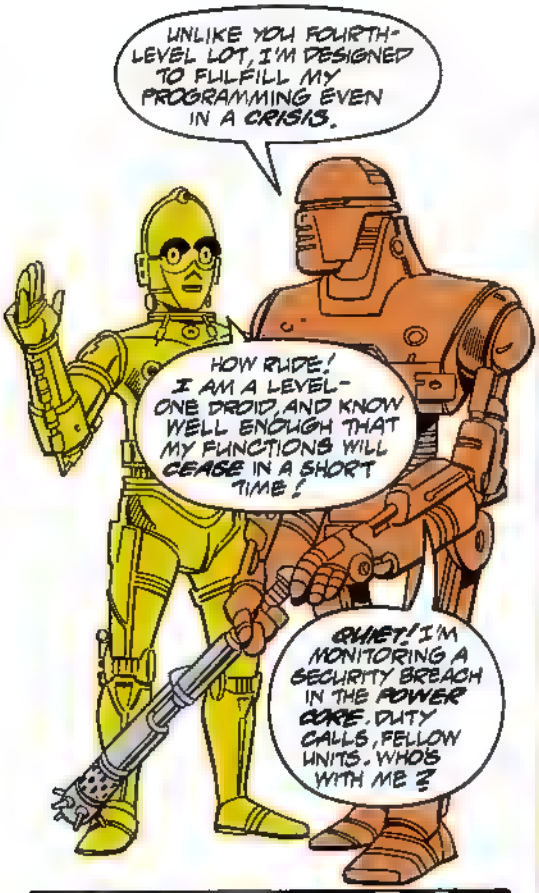

SIR'S REPLY IS THAT HIS HOMEWORLD IS QUITE A BIT FARTHER AWAY FROM KALARBA, BARON. IT APPEARS THAT--
WEEOOOOOOO
AN EVACUATION ALARM!
HEEBA NOB!

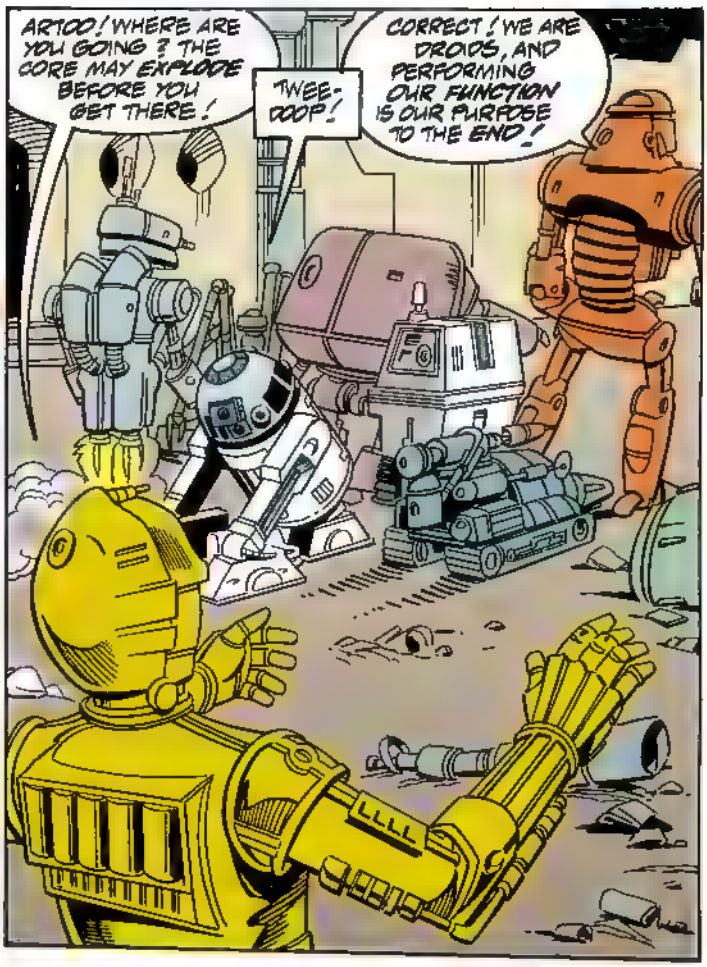
DEAR OH DEAR!
BY THE PEAKS!
THEY'RE RACING FOR THE SPACEPORT!
HO THERE! WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!
THE POWER CORE HAS RUPTURED--IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE! ALL OF HOSK WILL BE DUST IN AN HOUR!
HURRY BACK TO THE SHIP, THREEPIO. HAVE ARTOO CLEAR THE HOLDS OF ANYTHING WE DON'T NEED TO MAKE IT TO KALARBA.
I'LL GATHER AS MANY REFUGEES AS WE CAN TAKE.
YES SIR!


THIS IS THE LAST ONE, ARTOO.
I CERTAINLY WISH THE BARON WERE HERE... TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
ARTOO! PREPARE THE SHIP FOR LIFTOFF!
QUICKLY, HELP ME GET THESE POOR BEINGS ON BOARD!
FA-WHEET! DA FREEP DIT!
SIR, ARTOO SAYS THAT THIS LARGE A PAYLOAD EXCEEDS THE SHIP'S DESIGNS!
IF WE ARE TO REACH A SAFE DISTANCE IN THE AVAILABLE TIME, AT LEAST TWO PASSENGERS MUST REMAIN BEHIND.
THEN IT WILL BE MYSELF AND ONE OTHER...
PLEASE, DO NOT SACRIFICE YOURSELF. OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN FULL. WE WILL REMAIN.
YES, THE TREES OF OUR HOME SHALL REMEMBER ALL THAT WE WERE AND SING OF OUR LIVES.
TWARK! ZWEEP-A-DIT!
YES, I AGREE, ARTOO...

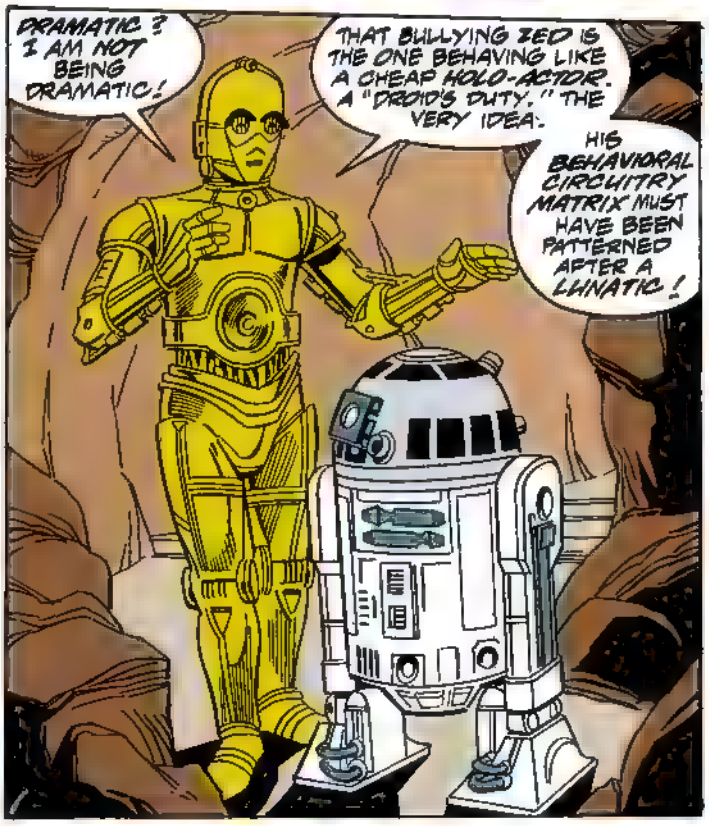
IT IS VERY GENEROUS TO SUGGEST SACRIFICING YOURSELVES FOR OUR WELL BEING, BUT AFTER ALL...
...WE ARE ONLY DROIDS.
THREEPIO...
I'M AFRAID WE MUST INSIST, BARON. IT IS IN OUR PROGRAMMING.
THE FORESTS OF ITHOR SHALL SING YOUR NAMES...
I WILL RETURN. I'LL SCAN THE DEBRIS-- REBUILD YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS... IF I CAN.
PLEASE HURRY, BARON, TIME IS SHORT. SAY GOOD-BYE TO NAK, AND THANK YOU...
...YOU'VE BEEN VERY CONSIDERATE.
TWOOOO...

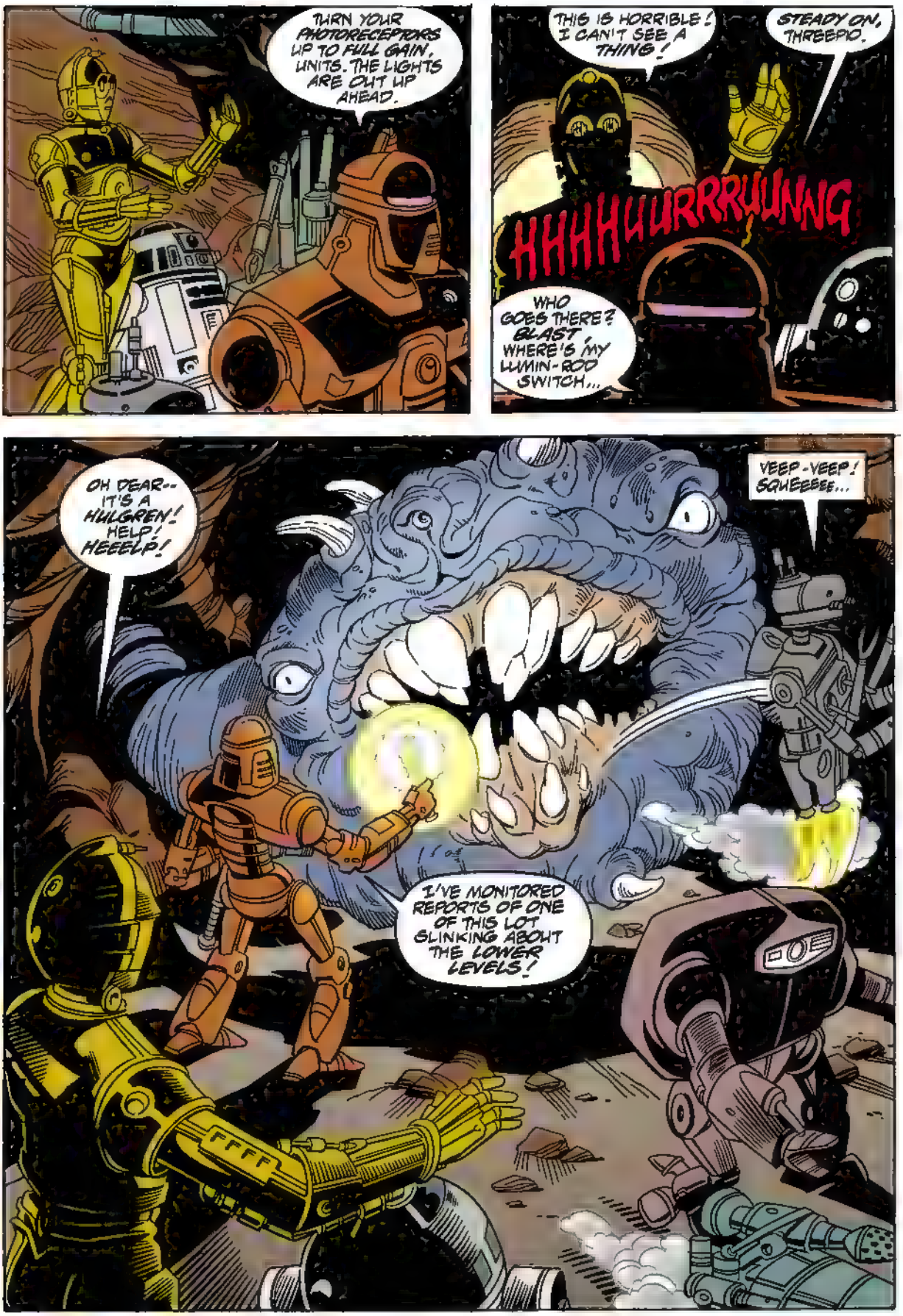
HOK TU BOK?
OH! HELLO THERE!
YES, WE ARE ALONE. I AM SEE-THREEPIO, AND THIS IS ARTOO-DETOO.
INPUT: WHAT IS NEXT TASK?
HOW AM I TO KNOW? I AM NOT A CO-ORDINATOR DROID!
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT, THEN?!
YOUR LOT WOULDN'T BE GATHERING IN A PUBLIC PLACE TO PLAN A LOOTING SPREE, WOULD YOU?
I BEG YOUR PARDON! AS A PROPERLY PROGRAMMED DROID, I WOULD NEVER STEAL!
SO YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THIS CREW?
I'M NO LEADER OF ANYTHING, I'M SEE-THREEPIO.
INDEED? WELL, NO MATTER... I AM UNIT ZED.. A LEVEL-ONE DROID AND HEAD OF AUTOMATED SECURITY HERE ON HOSK STATION.

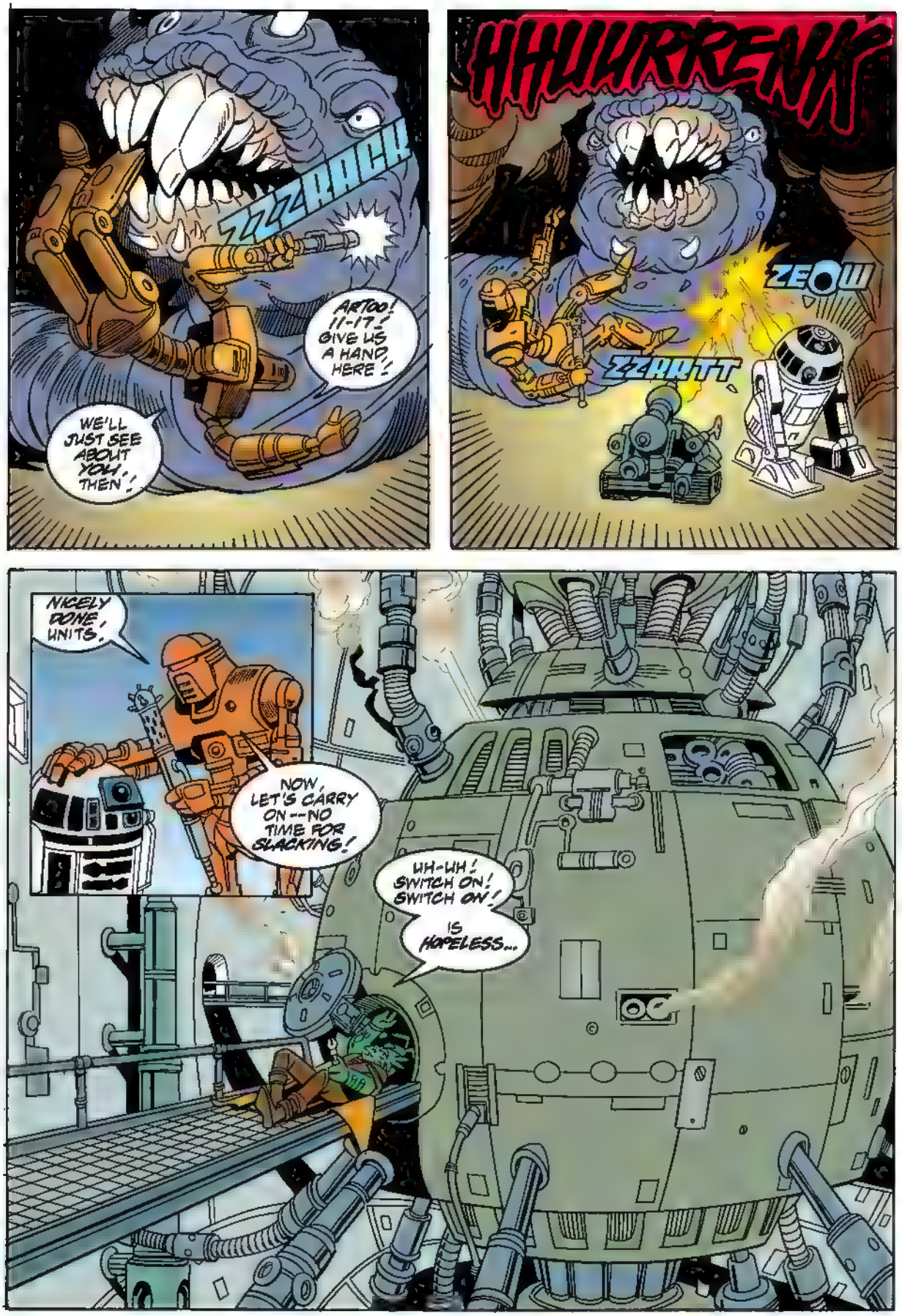

UNLIKE YOU FOURTH-LEVEL LOT, I'M DESIGNED TO FULFILL MY PROGRAMMING EVEN IN A CRISIS.
HOW RUDE! I AM A LEVEL-ONE DROID, AND KNOW WELL ENOUGH THAT MY FUNCTIONS WILL CEASE IN A SHORT TIME!
QUIET! I'M MONITORING A SECURITY BREACH IN THE POWER CORE. DUTY CALLS, FELLOW UNITS. WHO'S WITH ME?

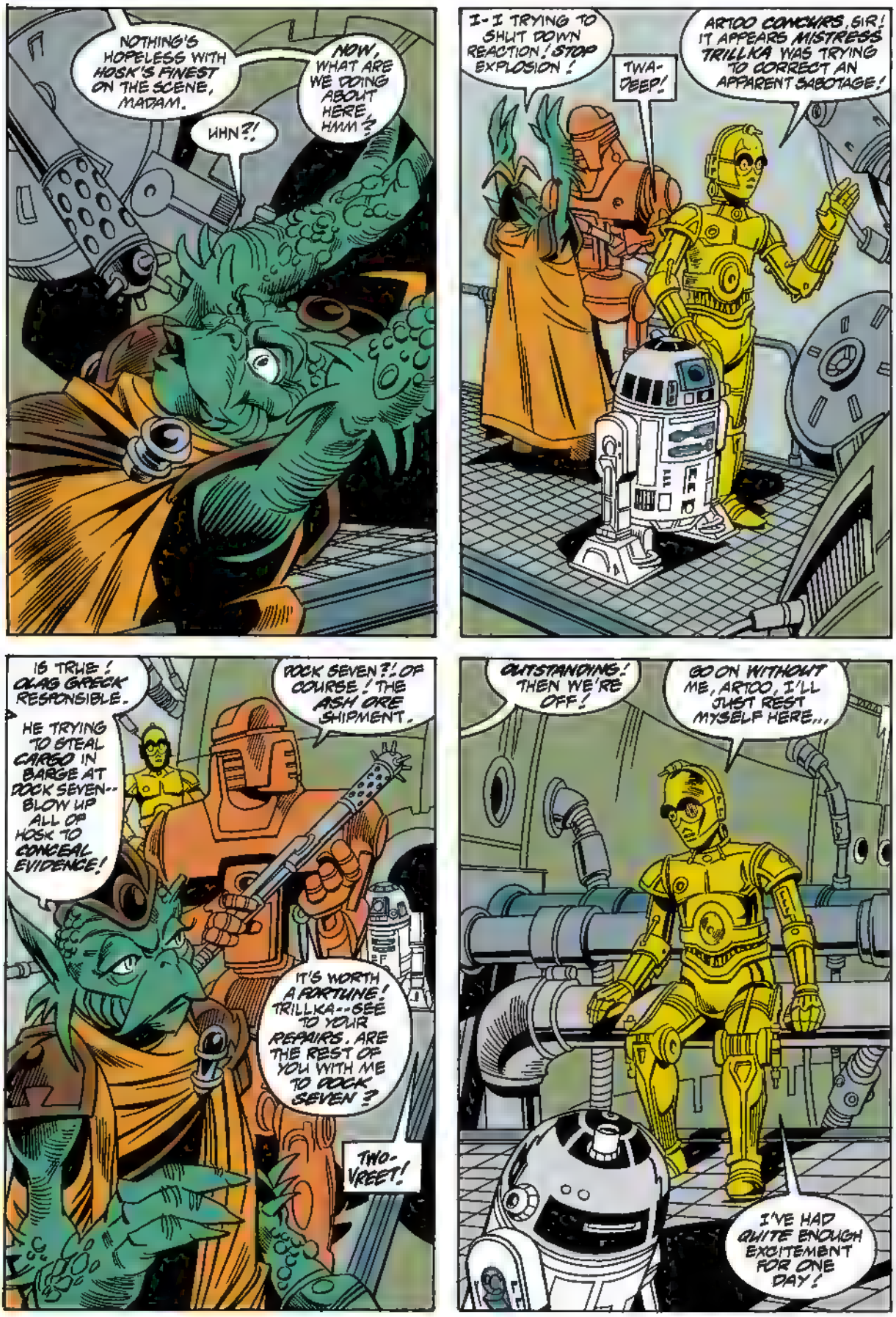

ARTOO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THE CORE MAY EXPLODE BEFORE YOU GET THERE!
TWEE-DOOP!
CORRECT! WE ARE DROIDS, AND PERFORMING OUR FUNCTION IS OUR PURPOSE TO THE END!

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO WASTE OUR LAST HOURS TRAIPSING THROUGH A FILTHY ACCESS TUNNEL.
VREET-DOOT.


DRAMATIC? I AM NOT BEING DRAMATIC!
THAT BULLYING ZED IS THE ONE BEHAVING LIKE A CHEAP HOLO-ACTOR. A "DROID'S DUTY." THE VERY IDEA.
HIS BEHAVIORAL CIRCUITRY MATRIX MUST HAVE BEEN PATTERNED AFTER A LUNATIC!


TURN YOUR PHOTORECEPTORS UP TO FULL GAIN, UNITS. THE LIGHTS ARE OUT UP AHEAD.
THIS IS HORRIBLE! I CAN'T SEE A THING!
STEADY ON, THREEPIO.
HHHHUURRRYUNNG
WHO GOES THERE? BLAST, WHERE'S MY LUMIN-ROD SWITCH...
OH DEAR-- IT'S A HULGREN! HELP! HEEELP!
VEEP-VEEP! SQUEEEEE...
I'VE MONITORED REPORTS OF ONE OF THIS LOT SLINKING ABOUT THE LOWER LEVELS!


ZZZRACK
ARTOO! II-IT! GIVE US A HAND, HERE!
WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT YOU, THEN!
HHUHRRENK
ZEOW
ZZHUTT
NICELY DONE, UNITS.
NOW, LET'S CARRY ON--NO TIME FOR SLACKING!
UH-UH! SWITCH ON! SWITCH ON! IS HOPELESS...


NOTHING'S HOPELESS WITH HOSK'S FINEST ON THE SCENE, MADAM.
NOW, WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT HERE, HMM?
WHN?!
I-I TRYING TO SHUT DOWN REACTION! STOP EXPLOSION!
TWA-DEEP!
ARTOO CONCURS, SIR! IT APPEARS MISTRESS TRILLKA WAS TRYING TO CORRECT AN APPARENT SABOTAGE!
IS TRUE! OLAG GRECK RESPONSIBLE.
HE TRYING TO STEAL CARGO IN BARGE AT DOCK SEVEN-- BLOW UP ALL OF HOSK TO CONCEAL EVIDENCE!
DOCK SEVEN?! OF COURSE! THE ASH ORE SHIPMENT.
IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE! TRILLKA--SEE TO YOUR REPAIRS. ARE THE REST OF YOU WITH ME TO DOCK SEVEN?
TWO-VREET!
OUTSTANDING! THEN WE'RE OFF!
GO ON WITHOUT ME, ARTOO, I'LL JUST REST MYSELF HERE...
I'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE DAY!

LATER...

THIS IS OLAG'S HANDIWORK, ALL RIGHT.

THAT'S HIS SHIP TOWING THE BOOTY, AND THE GAMORREAN DOING THE DIRTY DEED IS HIS HENCHMAN XOB.

IT'S TIME WE PUT A STOP TO THIS THIEVERY, UNITS. YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS--MOVE OUT!

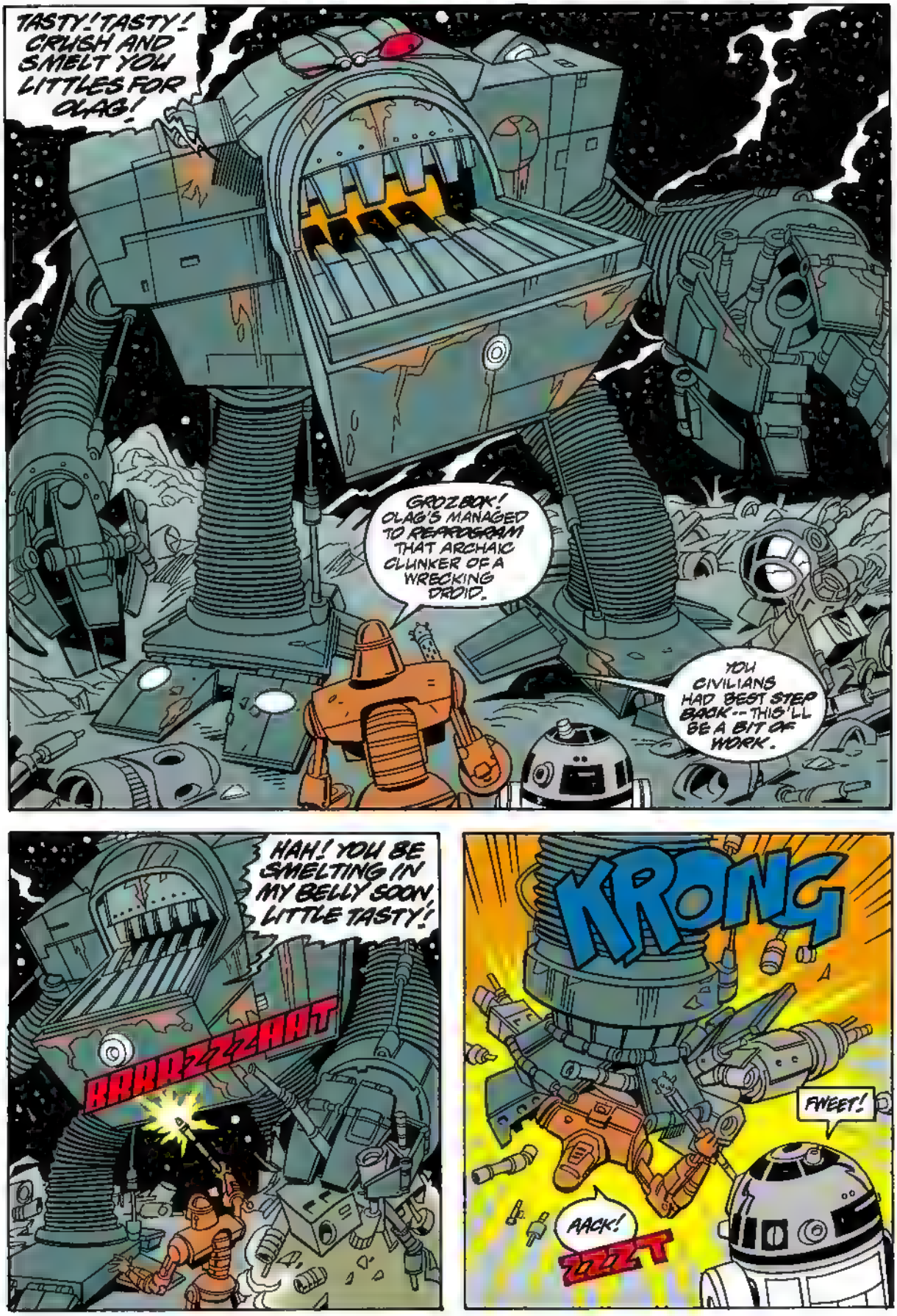
HURRY, YOU SIMPLETON! WE'VE ONLY FORTY MINUTES UNTIL THE CORE RUPTURES!

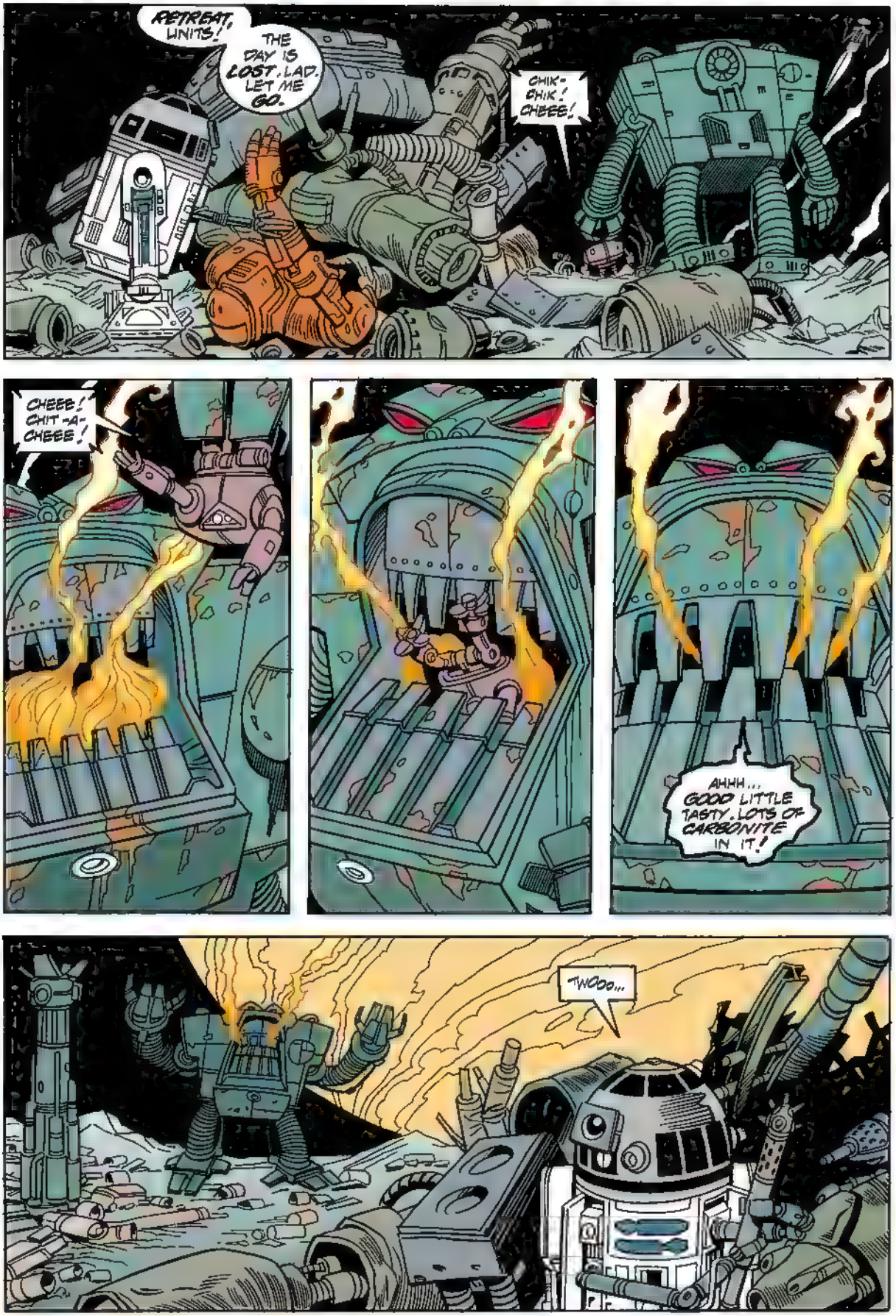
EH? WHAT IS...? OH, HOW PRECIOUS...

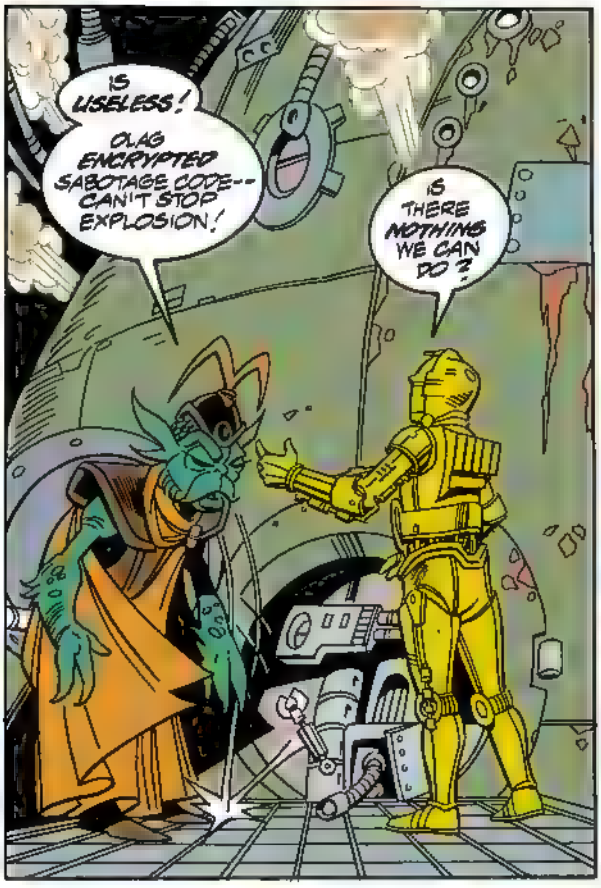
IF IT ISN'T OUR RESIDENT ROBOTIC CONSTABULARY.

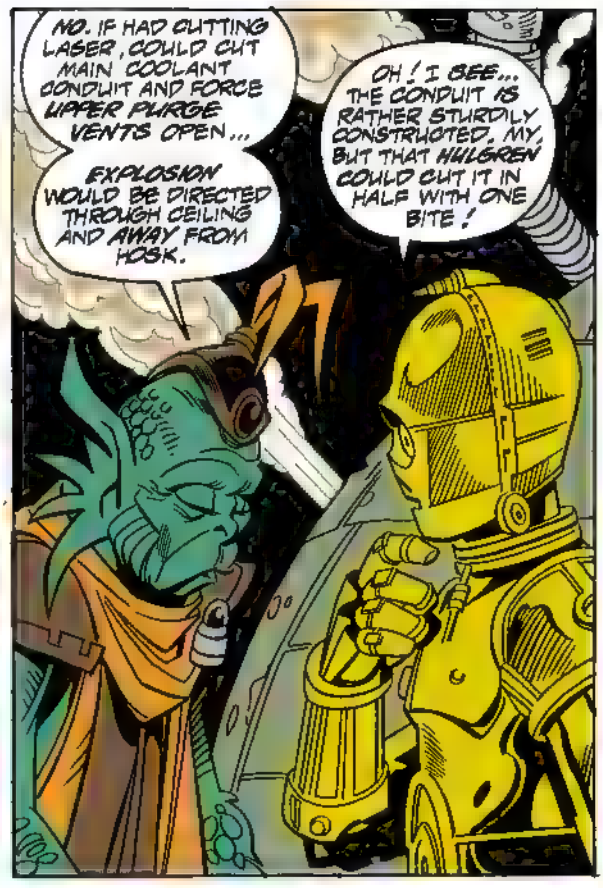
SEEMS HE HASN'T SPOTTED MY NEWEST HIRED HAND...

"...I'M SURE IT NOTICED HIM."


TASTY! TASTY! CRUSH AND SMELT YOU LITTLES FOR OLAG!
GROZBOK! OLAG'S MANAGED TO REPROGRAM THAT ARCHAIC CLUNKER OF A WRECKING DROID.
YOU CIVILIANS HAD BEST STEP BACK -- THIS'LL BE A BIT OF WORK.
HAH! YOU BE SMELTING IN MY BELLY SOON, LITTLE TASTY!
BRRRZZZHAT
KRONG
FWEET!
AACK!
ZZZT


RETREAT, UNITS!
THE DAY IS LOST, LAD. LET ME GO.
CHIK-CHIK! CHEEE!
CHEEE! CHIT-A-CHEEE!
AHHH... GOOD LITTLE TASTY. LOTS OF CARBONITE IN IT!
TWOOO...

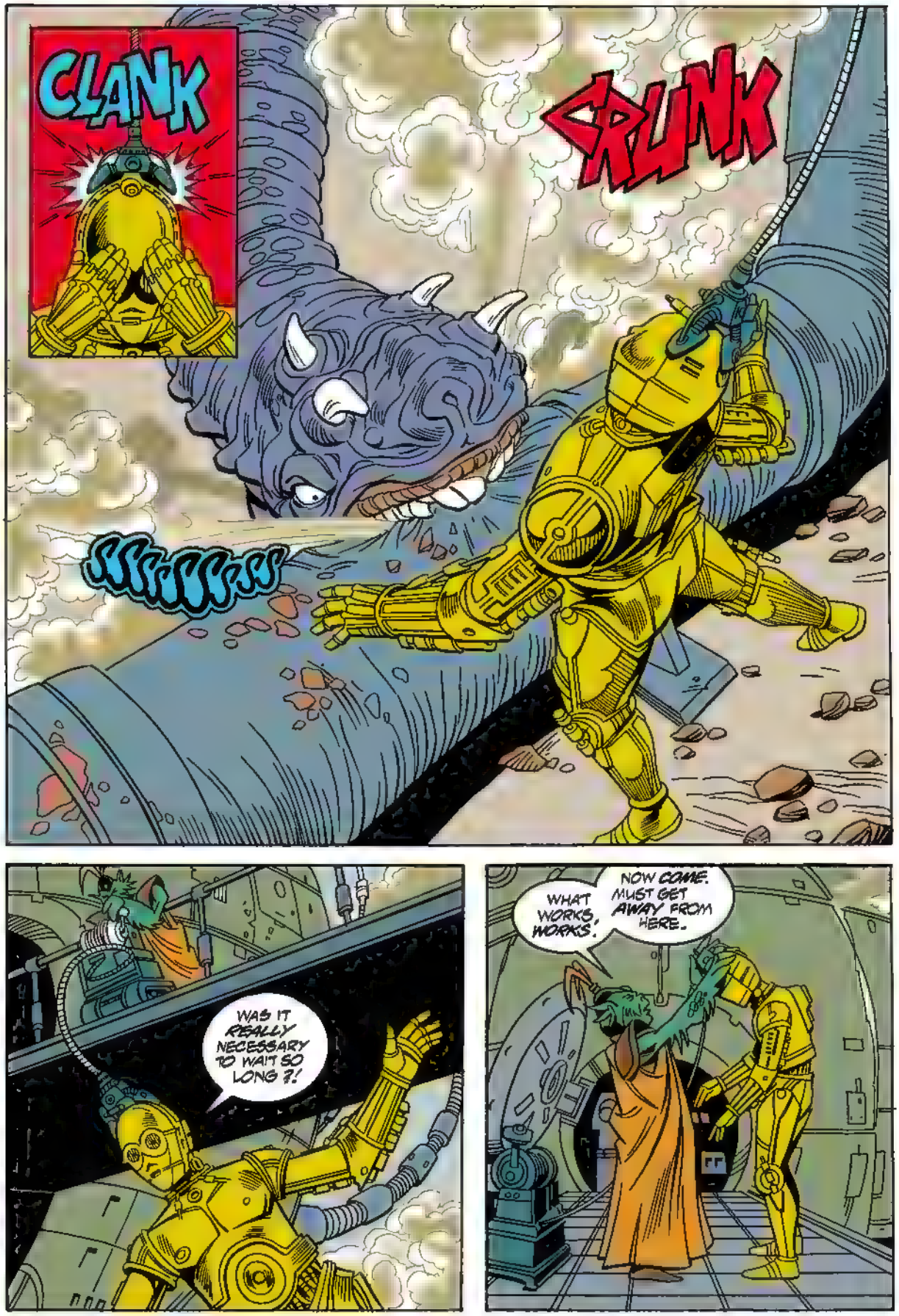

IS USELESS!
OLAG ENCRYPTED SABOTAGE CODE-- CAN'T STOP EXPLOSION!
IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO?

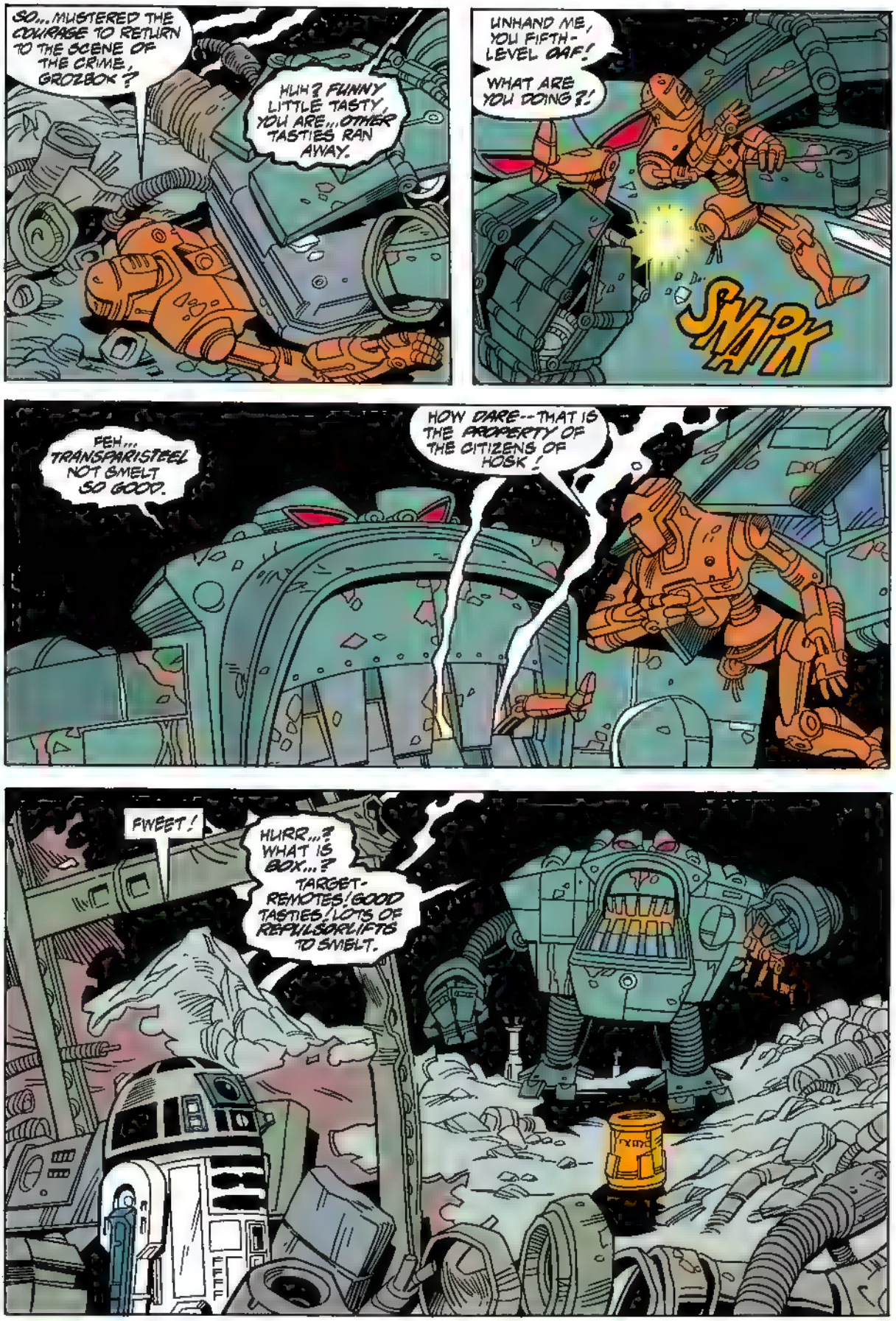

NO. IF HAD CUTTING LASER, COULD CUT MAIN COOLANT CONDUIT AND FORCE UPPER PURGE VENTS OPEN...
EXPLOSION WOULD BE DIRECTED THROUGH CEILING AND AWAY FROM HOSK.
OH! I SEE... THE CONDUIT IS RATHER STURDILY CONSTRUCTED. MY, BUT THAT HULGREN COULD CUT IT IN HALF WITH ONE BITE!

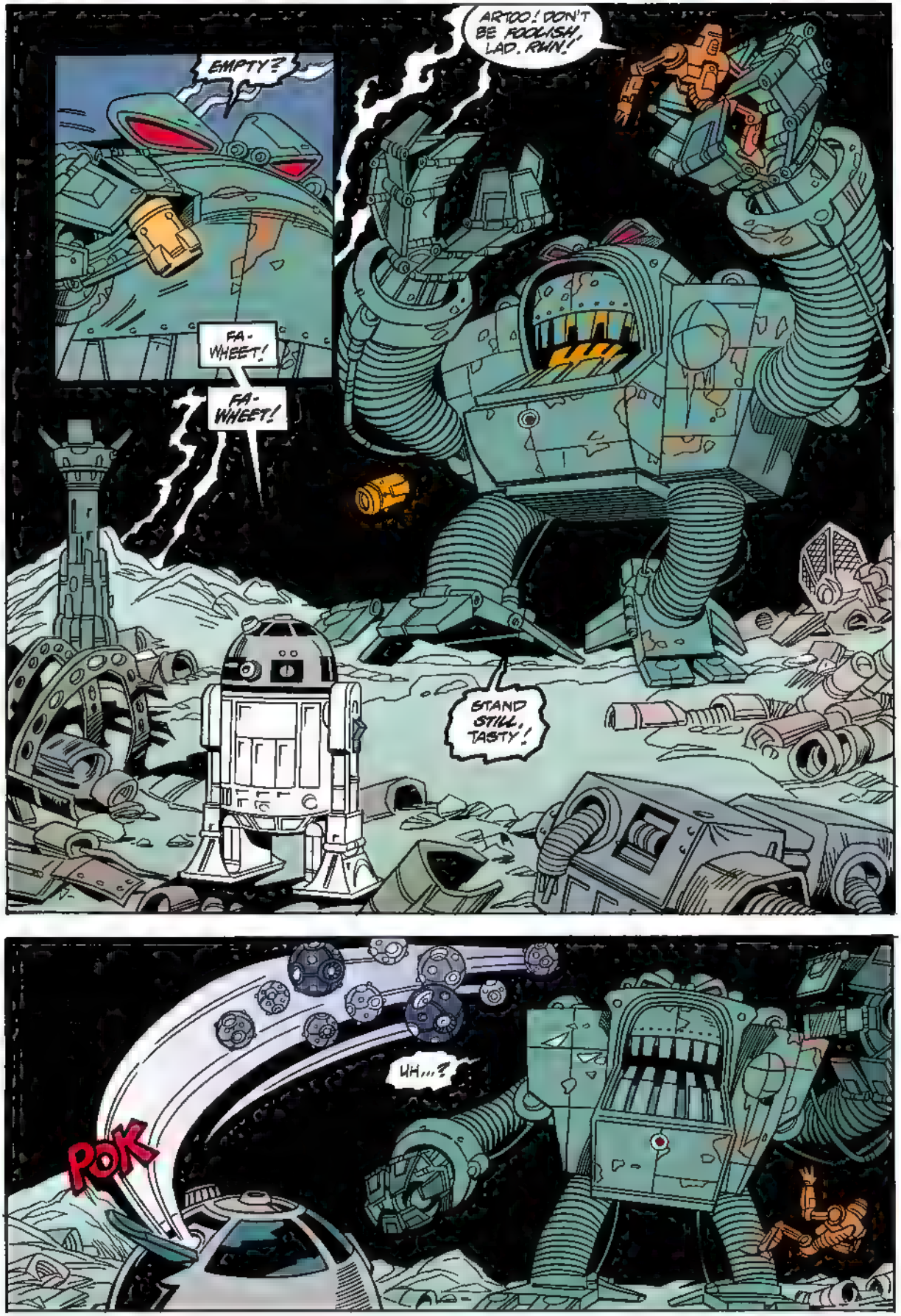
HULGREN?! WHERE?
I-IN THE ACCESS TUNNEL LEADING HERE! WHY DO YOU ASK, MADAM?
I HAVE IDEA! WHAT DO IS THIS...

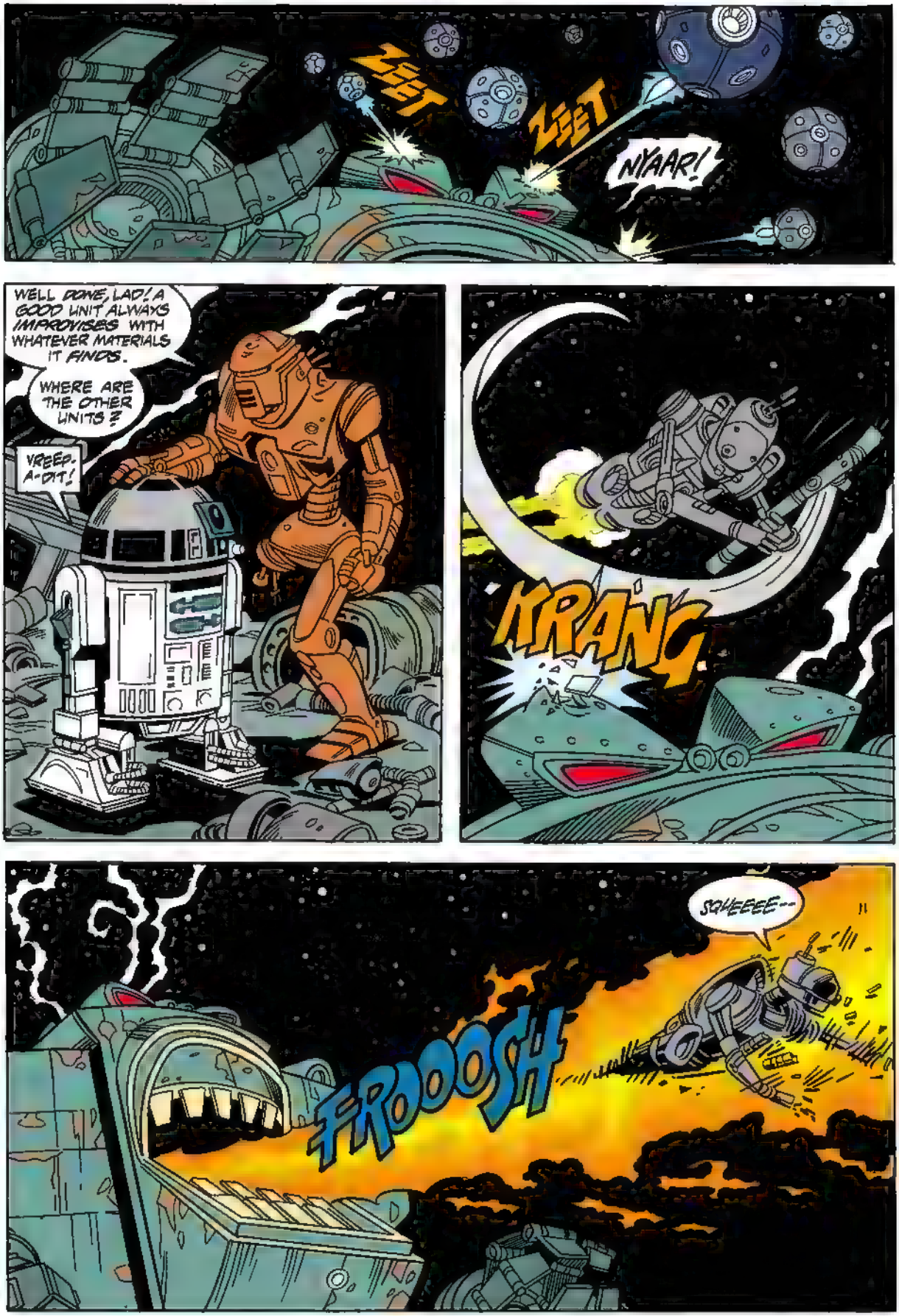
LATER...
IDEA, MY FOOT! HELLO? HELLOOO?

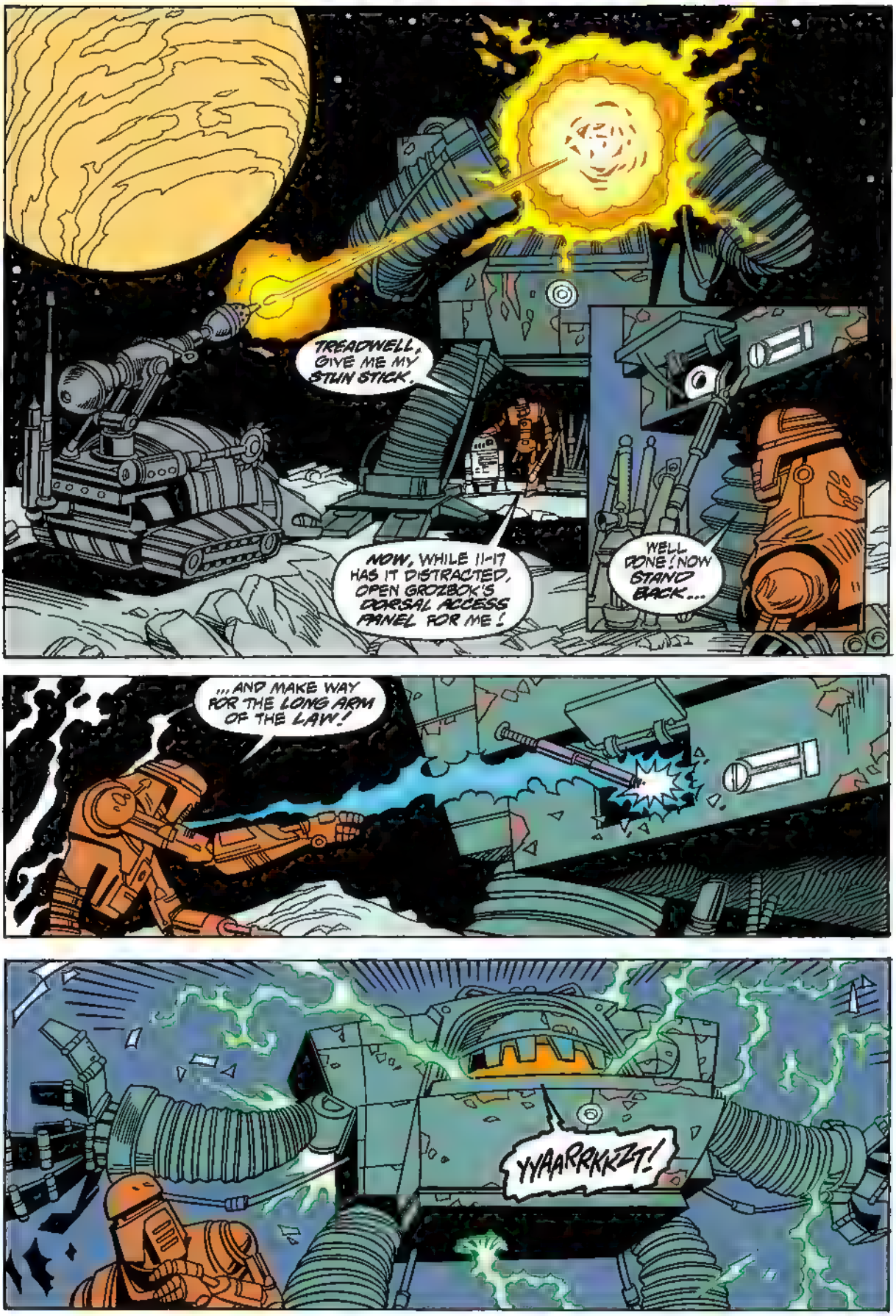
OH, THIS IS POINTLESS! THAT DISGUSTING THING IS NOWHERE TO BE--
HHHHRRSSSSSSSS...
OH, DEAR! HELP! HEEELLP!
HHHEEELLLPP!
I'M POOMED.

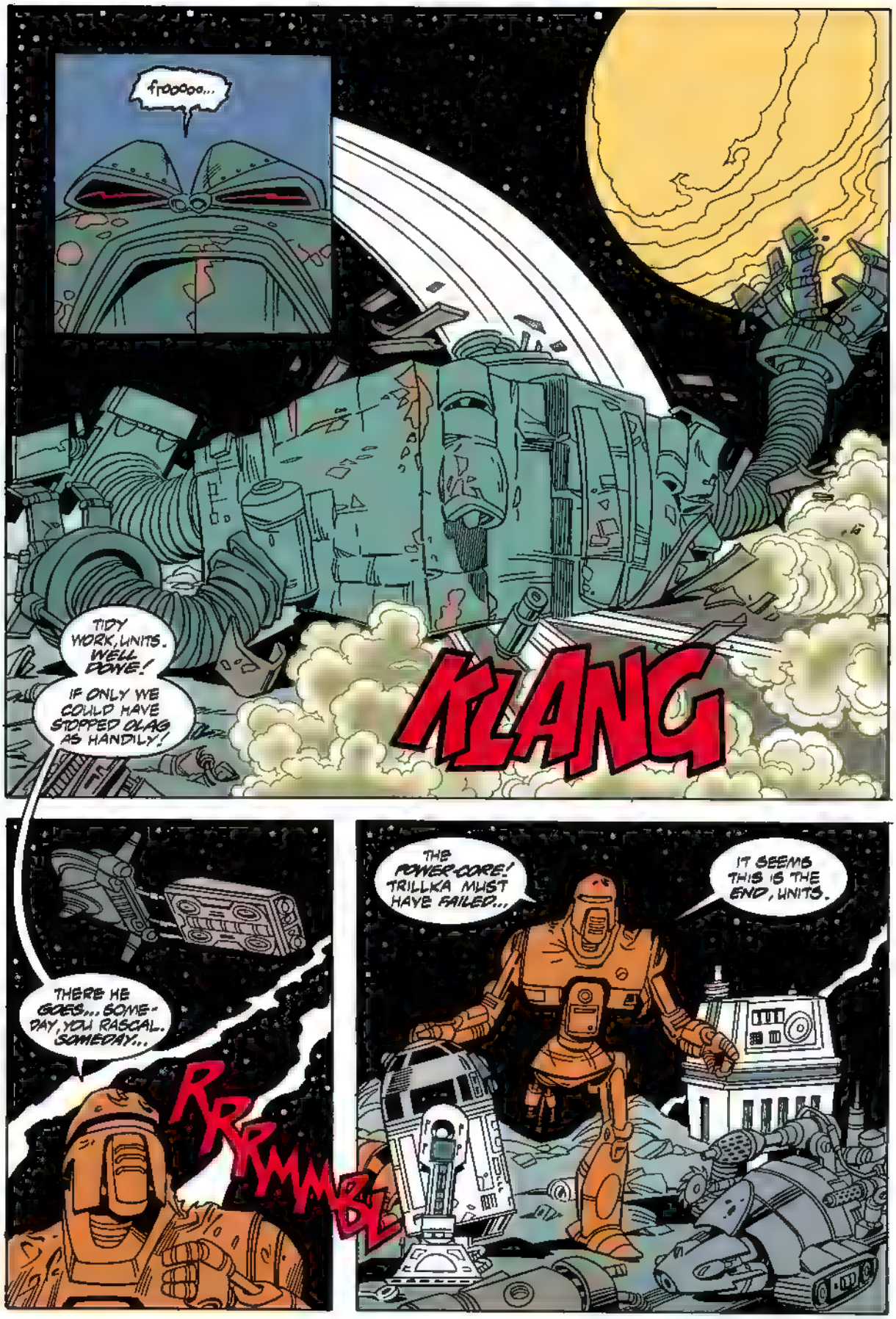

CLANK
CRUNK
SSSSSSS
WAS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO WAIT SO LONG?!
WHAT WORKS, WORKS.
NOW COME. MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE.


SO...MUSTERED THE COURAGE TO RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, GROZBOK?
HUH? FUNNY LITTLE TASTY, YOU ARE...OTHER TASTIES RAN AWAY.
UNHAND ME, YOU FIFTH-LEVEL OAF!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SNAPK
FEH... TRANSPARISTEEL NOT SMELT SO GOOD.
HOW DARE--THAT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE CITIZENS OF HOSK!
FWEET!
HURR...? WHAT IS BOX...?
TARGET-REMOTES! GOOD TASTIES! LOTS OF REPULSORLIFTS TO SMELT.
FEEF

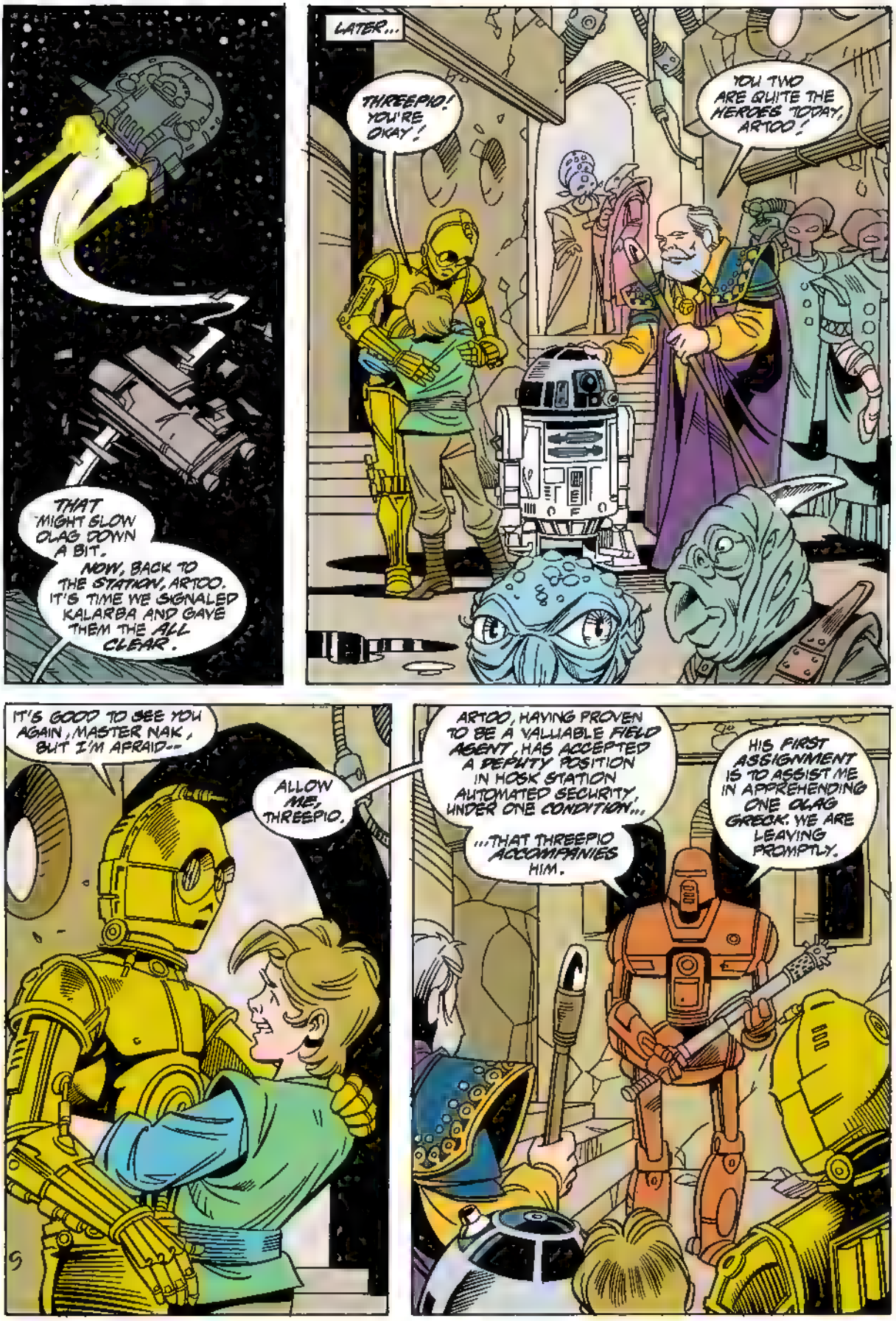

EMPTY?
FA-WHEET!
FA-WHEET!
ARTOO! DON'T BE FOOLISH, LAD. RUN!
STAND STILL, TASTY!
UH...?
POK

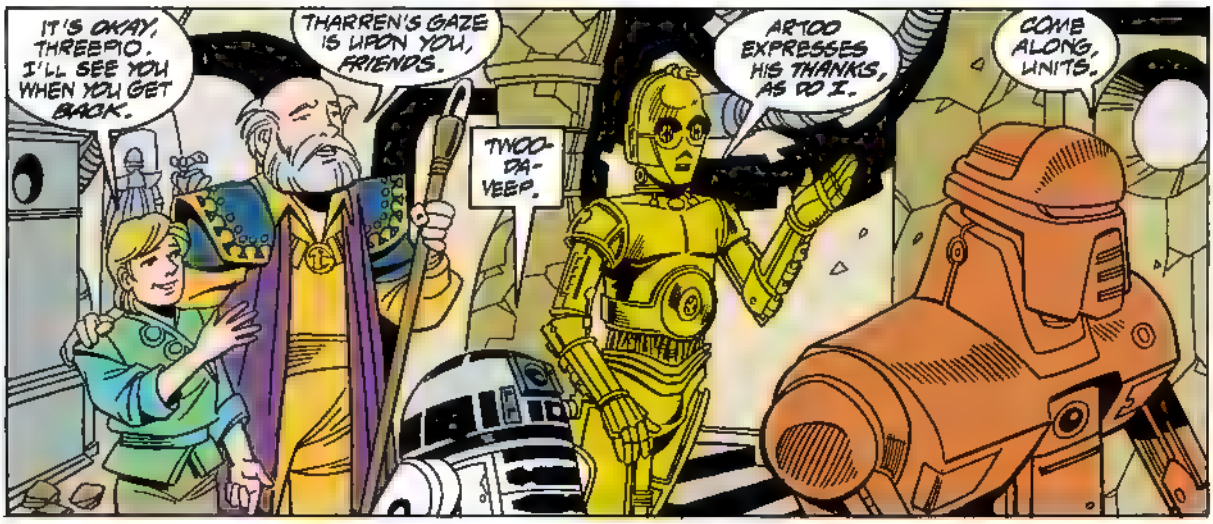

ZEET
ZEET
NYAAR!
WELL DONE, LAD! A GOOD UNIT ALWAYS IMPROVISES WITH WHATEVER MATERIALS IT FINDS.
WHERE ARE THE OTHER UNITS?
VREEP-A-DIT!
KRANG
SQUEEEE--
FROOOSH


TREADWELL, GIVE ME MY STUN STICK.
NOW, WHILE 11-17 HAS IT DISTRACTED, OPEN GROZBOK'S DORSAL ACCESS PANEL FOR ME!
WELL DONE! NOW STAND BACK...
...AND MAKE WAY FOR THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW!
YYAARRKKZT!

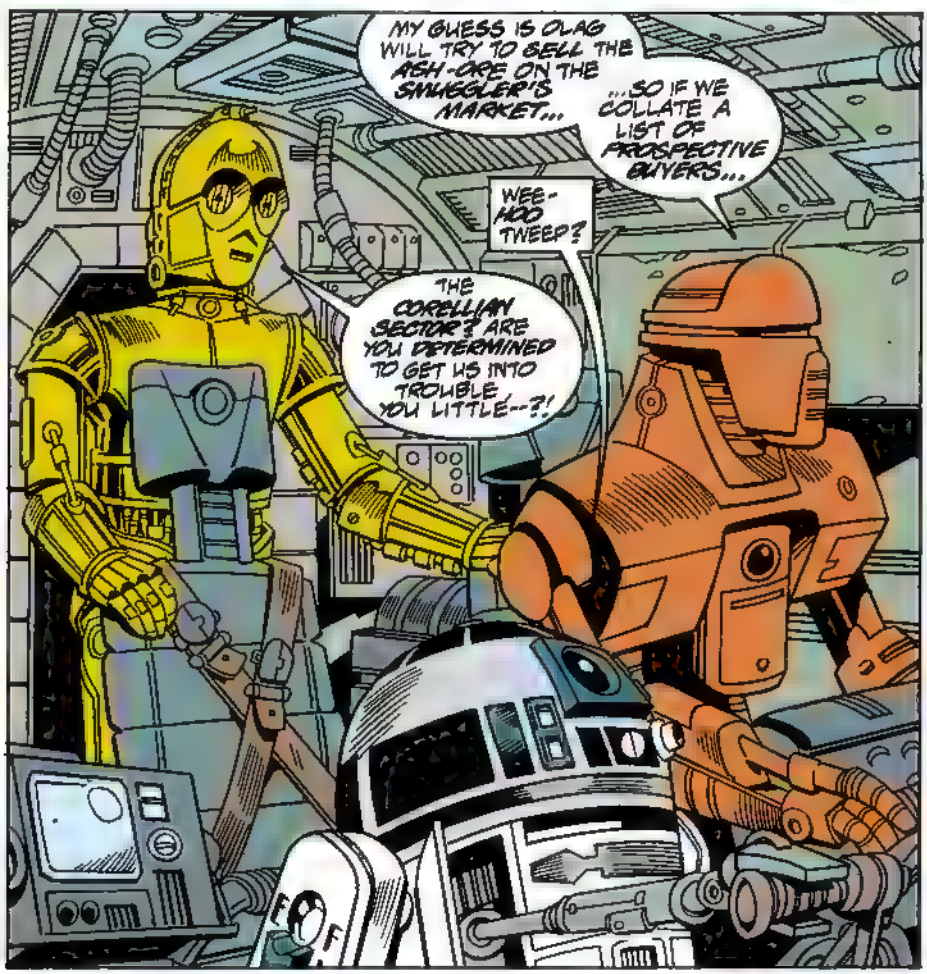

froooooo...
TIDY WORK, UNITS. WELL DONE!
IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE STOPPED OLAG AS HANDILY!
KLANG
THERE HE GOES... SOMEDAY, YOU RASCAL. SOMEDAY...
RRRMMBL
THE POWER-CORE! TRILLKA MUST HAVE FAILED...
IT SEEMS THIS IS THE END, UNITS.

PWOOT-A-DEET!
I SEE IT, ARTOO!
AAIEEE!


THAT MIGHT SLOW OLAG DOWN A BIT.
NOW, BACK TO THE STATION, ARTOO. IT'S TIME WE SIGNALED KALARBA AND GAVE THEM THE ALL CLEAR.
LATER...
THREEPIO! YOU'RE OKAY!
YOU TWO ARE QUITE THE HEROES TODAY, ARTOO!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MASTER NAK, BUT I'M AFRAID--
ALLOW ME, THREEPIO.
ARTOO, HAVING PROVEN TO BE A VALUABLE FIELD AGENT, HAS ACCEPTED A DEPUTY POSITION IN HOSK STATION AUTOMATED SECURITY, UNDER ONE CONDITION...
...THAT THREEPIO ACCOMPANIES HIM.
HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT IS TO ASSIST ME IN APPREHENDING ONE OLAG GREEK. WE ARE LEAVING PROMPTLY.


IT'S OKAY, THREEPIO. I'LL SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK.
THARREN'S GAZE IS UPON YOU, FRIENDS.
TWOO-DA-VEEP.
ARTOO EXPRESSES HIS THANKS, AS DO I.
COME ALONG, UNITS.

PLUG INTO THE NAVI-COMPUTER, ARTOO.


MY GUESS IS OLAG WILL TRY TO SELL THE ASH-ORE ON THE SMUGGLER'S MARKET...
...SO IF WE COLLATE A LIST OF PROSPECTIVE BUYERS...
WEE-HOO TWEEP?
THE CORELLIAN SECTOR? ARE YOU DETERMINED TO GET US INTO TROUBLE YOU LITTLE--?!

VROAP!
REALLY, ARTOO. HOW RUDE!

END.

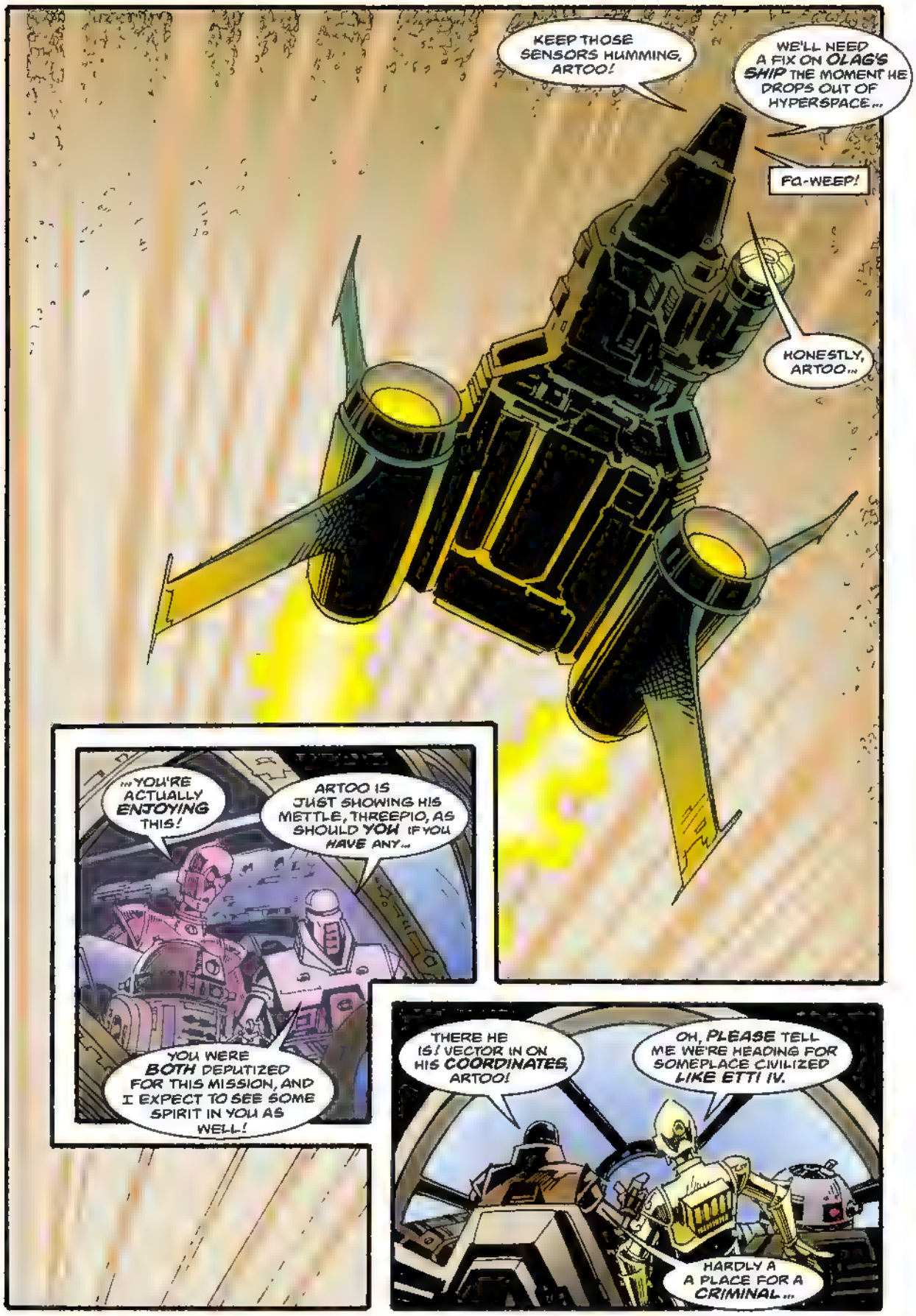
Rebellion / Illustration by Kilian Plunkett

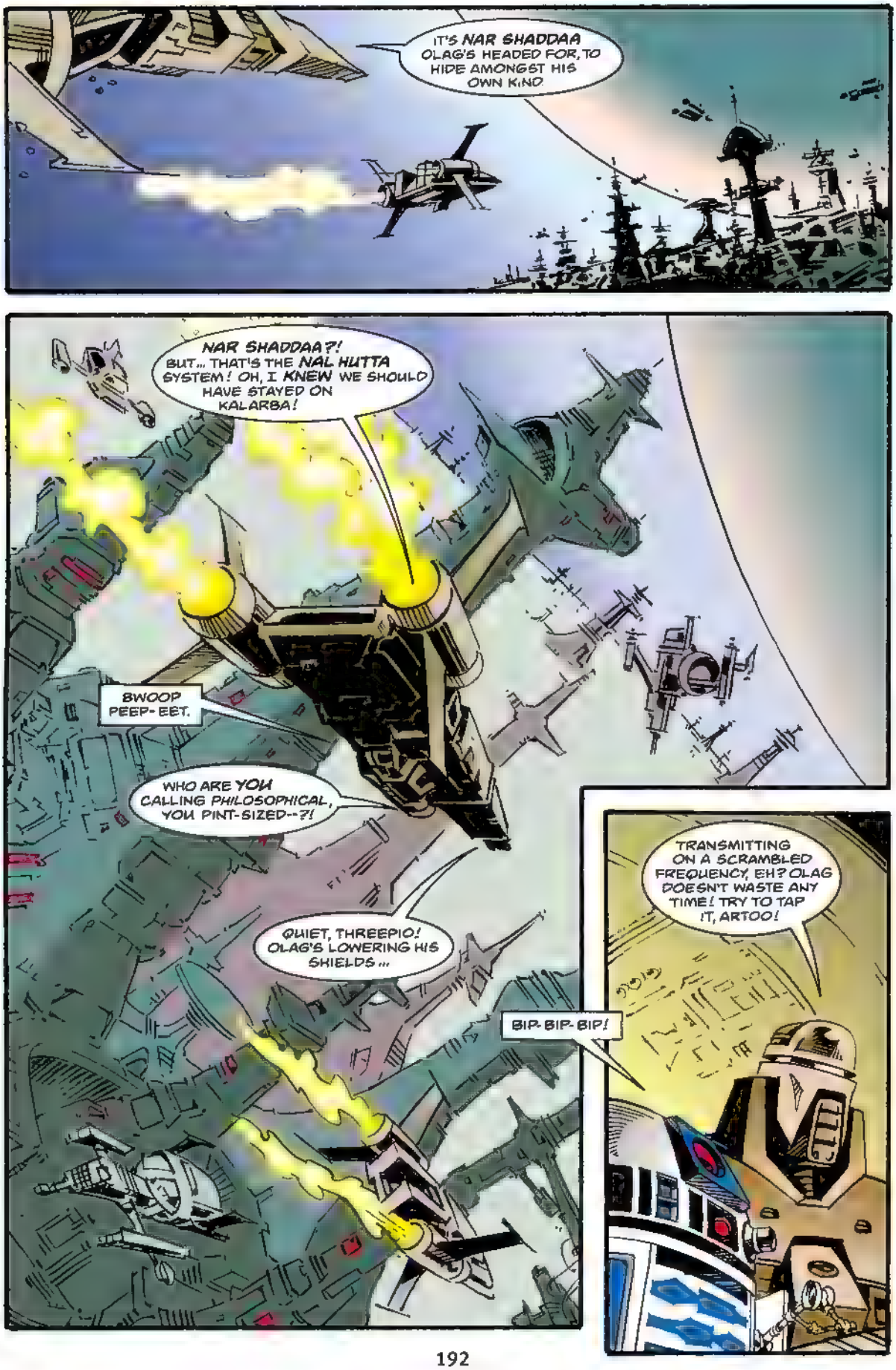
script by Ryder Windham

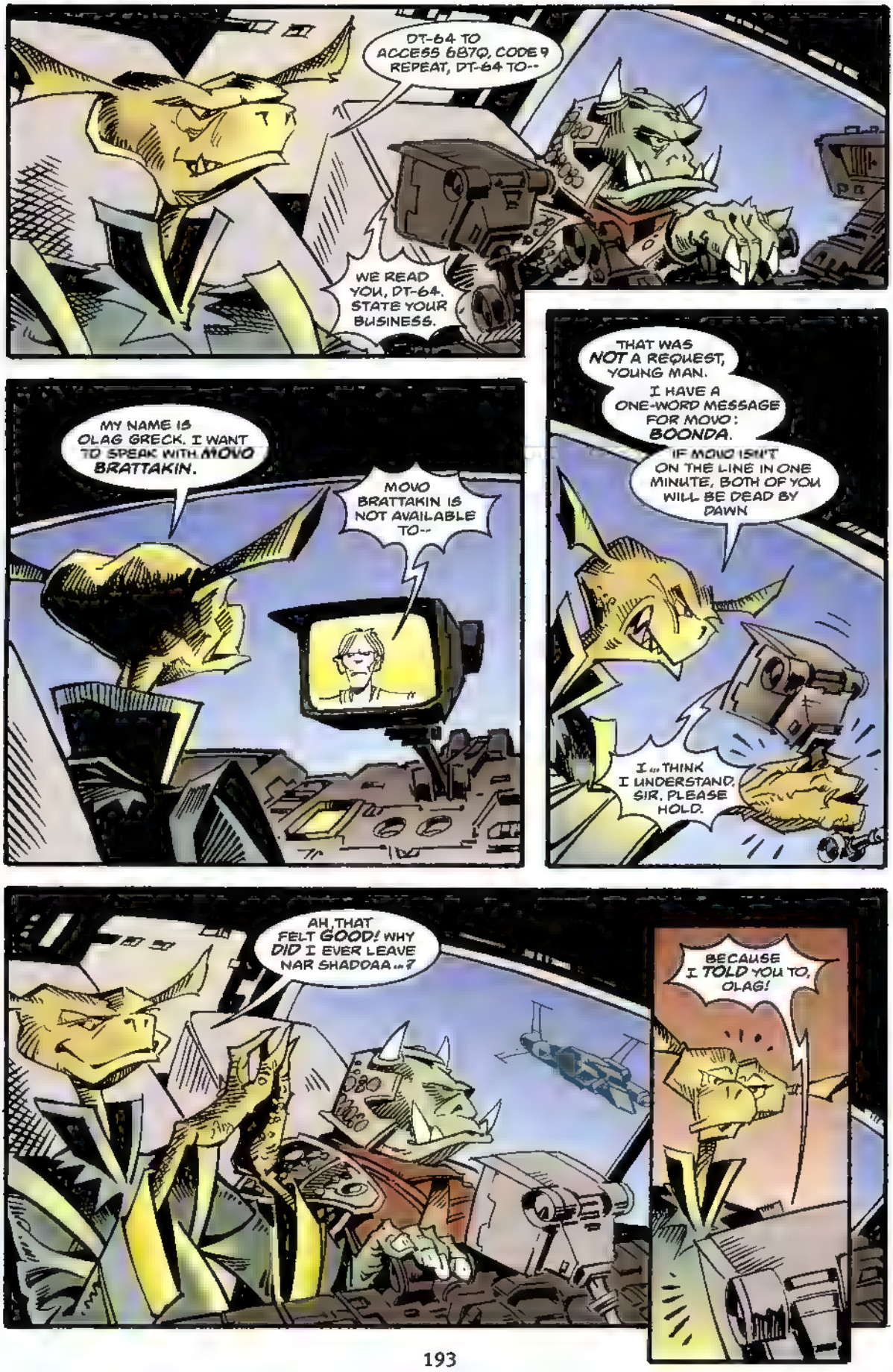
art by Ian Gibson

colors by Perry McNamee

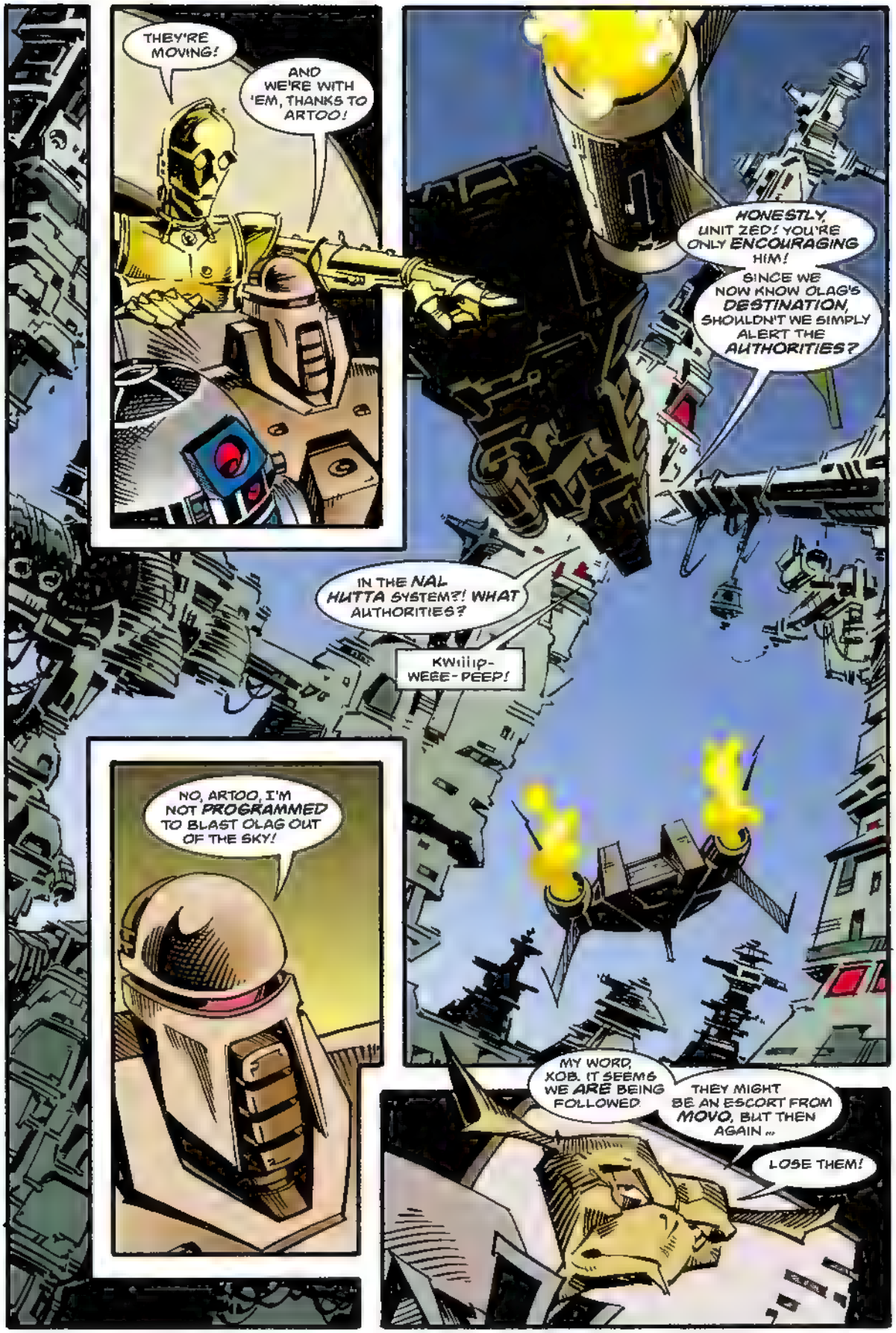
letters by Ellie DeVille

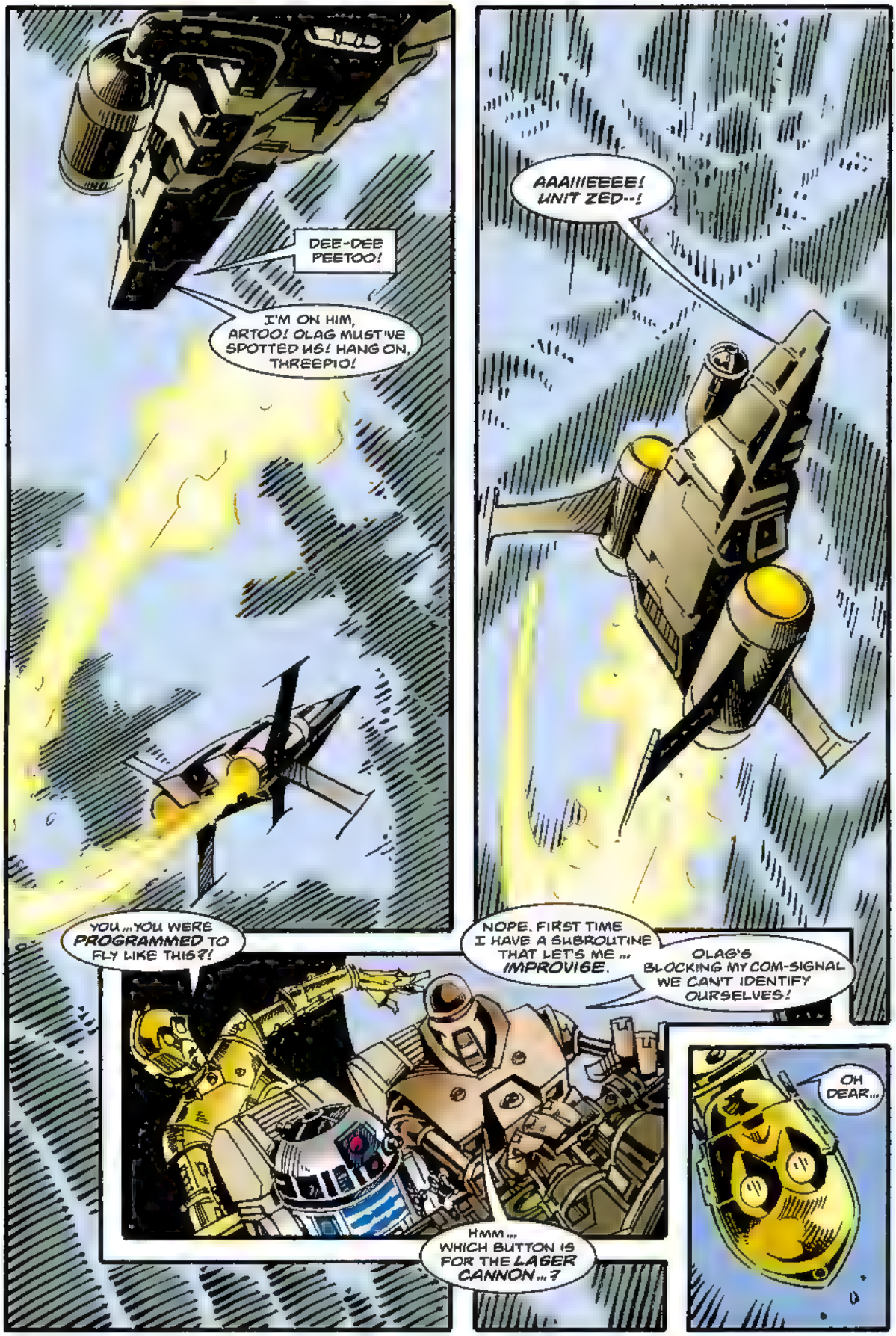

KEEP THOSE SENSORS HUMMING, ARTOO!
WE'LL NEED A FIX ON OLAG'S SHIP THE MOMENT HE DROPS OUT OF HYPERSPACE...
FA-WEEP!
HONESTLY, ARTOO...
...YOU'RE ACTUALLY ENJOYING THIS!
ARTOO IS JUST SHOWING HIS METTLE, THREEPIO, AS SHOULD YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY...
YOU WERE BOTH DEPUTIZED FOR THIS MISSION, AND I EXPECT TO SEE SOME SPIRIT IN YOU AS WELL!
THERE HE IS! VECTOR IN ON HIS COORDINATES, ARTOO!
OH, PLEASE TELL ME WE'RE HEADING FOR SOMEPLACE CIVILIZED LIKE ETTI IV.
HARDLY A A PLACE FOR A CRIMINAL...


IT'S NAR SHADDAA OLAG'S HEADED FOR, TO HIDE AMONGST HIS OWN KIND
NAR SHADDAA?! BUT... THAT'S THE NAL HUTTA SYSTEM! OH, I KNEW WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED ON KALARBA!
BWOOP PEEP-EET.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING PHILOSOPHICAL, YOU PINT-SIZED--?!
QUIET, THREEPIO! OLAG'S LOWERING HIS SHIELDS...
TRANSMITTING ON A SCRAMBLED FREQUENCY, EH? OLAG DOESN'T WASTE ANY TIME! TRY TO TAP IT, ARTOO!
BIP-BIP-BIP!


DT-64 TO ACCESS 6870, CODE 9 REPEAT, DT-64 TO--
WE READ YOU, DT-64. STATE YOUR BUSINESS.
MY NAME IS OLAG GRECK. I WANT TO SPEAK WITH MOVO BRATTAKIN.
MOVO BRATTAKIN IS NOT AVAILABLE TO--
THAT WAS NOT A REQUEST, YOUNG MAN.
I HAVE A ONE-WORD MESSAGE FOR MOVO: BOONDA.
IF MOVO ISN'T ON THE LINE IN ONE MINUTE, BOTH OF YOU WILL BE DEAD BY DAWN.
I... THINK I UNDERSTAND, SIR. PLEASE HOLD.
AH, THAT FELT GOOD! WHY DID I EVER LEAVE NAR SHADDAA...?
BECAUSE I TOLD YOU TO, OLAG!

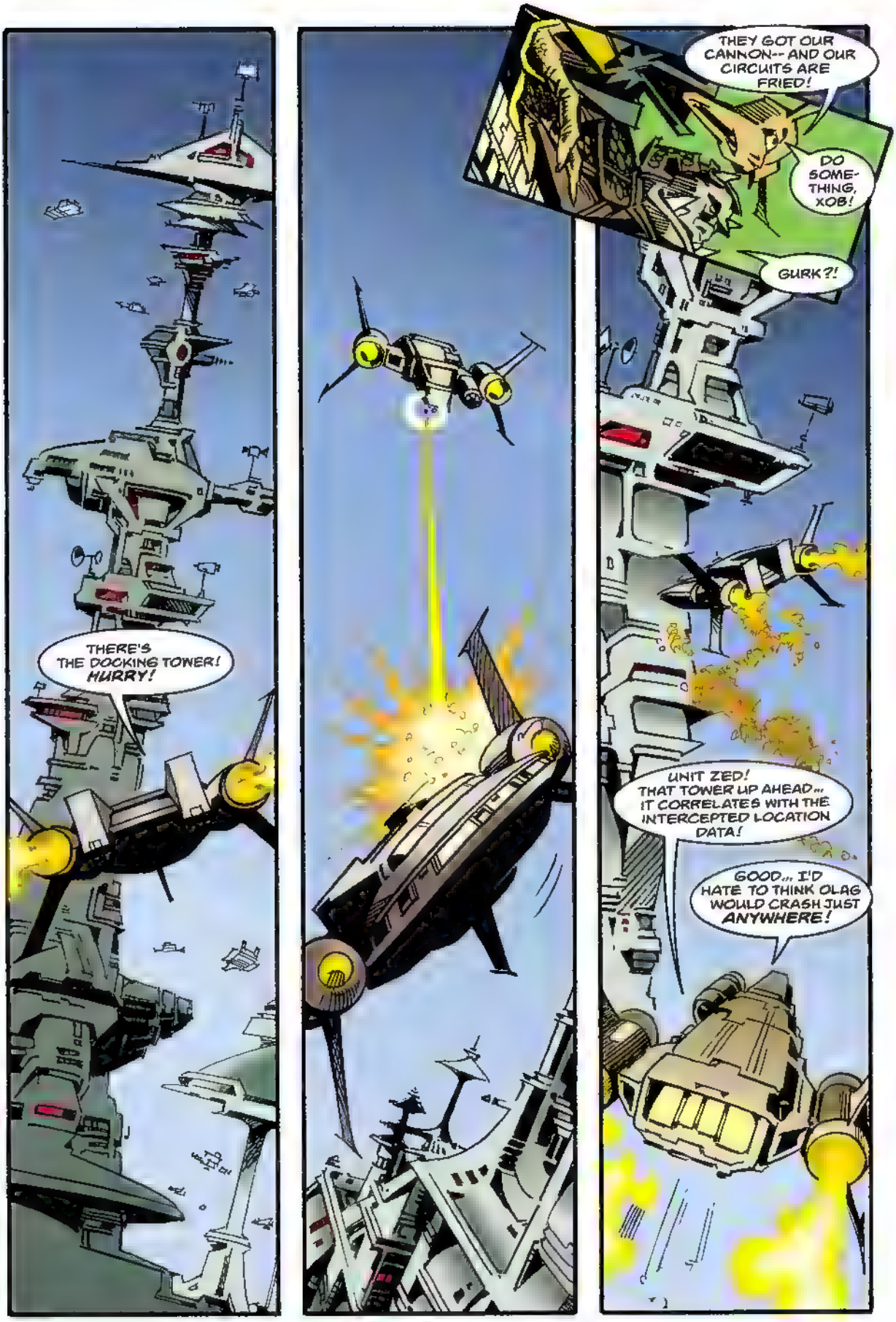
MOVO! YOU ARE HOME!
I'D TELL YOU THAT YOU LOOK WONDERFUL, BUT I CAN HARDLY SEE YOU--
QUIET, YOU IMBECILE! GET OFF THIS LINE IMMEDIATELY, OR I'LL--
YOU'LL WHAT, MOVO? REALLY I WANT TO KNOW, BECAUSE THIS TOWN HAS CHANGED, AND... AND I'M HUNGRY.
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU STILL EMPLOY THOSE WONDERFUL CHEFS...?
OH, I FORGOT! THEY SET UP CAMP ON INDOBOK AS PIRATES--!
ENOUGH!
WHY, OLAG MEANS CAPTAIN HUBA AND--
HUSH!
NOW, MOVO, WHERE SHALL WE MEET FOR DINNER...?
MY NEW HEADQUARTERS. I'M TRANSMITTING THE COORDINATES TO YOUR NAVICOMPUTER. MOVO OUT!

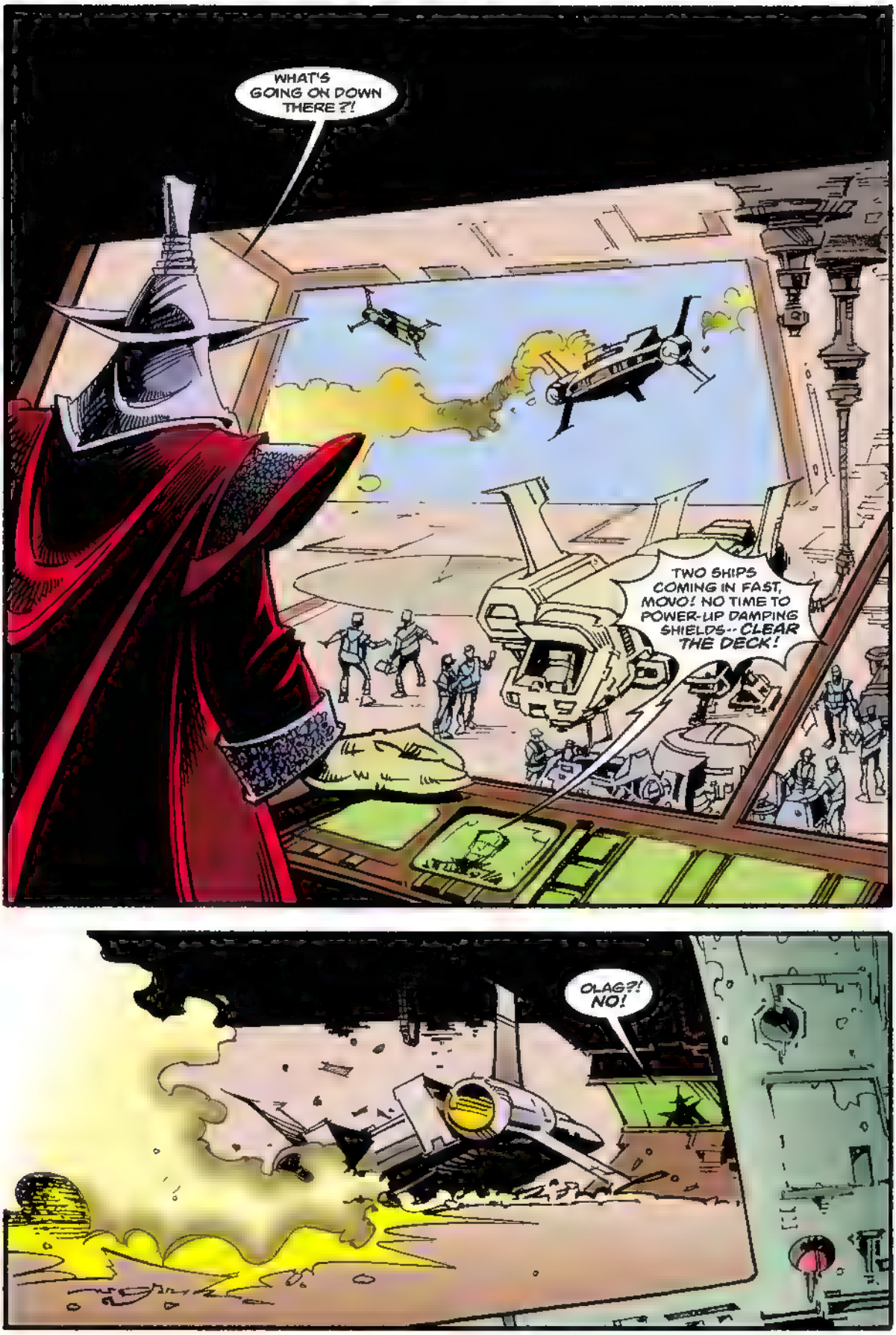

THEY'RE MOVING!
AND WE'RE WITH 'EM, THANKS TO ARTOO!
HONESTLY, UNIT ZED! YOU'RE ONLY ENCOURAGING HIM!
SINCE WE NOW KNOW OLAG'S DESTINATION, SHOULDN'T WE SIMPLY ALERT THE AUTHORITIES?
IN THE NAL HUTTA SYSTEM?! WHAT AUTHORITIES?
KWiiiP-WEEE-PEEP!
NO, ARTOO, I'M NOT PROGRAMMED TO BLAST OLAG OUT OF THE SKY!
MY WORD, XOB. IT SEEMS WE ARE BEING FOLLOWED
THEY MIGHT BE AN ESCORT FROM MOVO, BUT THEN AGAIN ...
LOSE THEM!

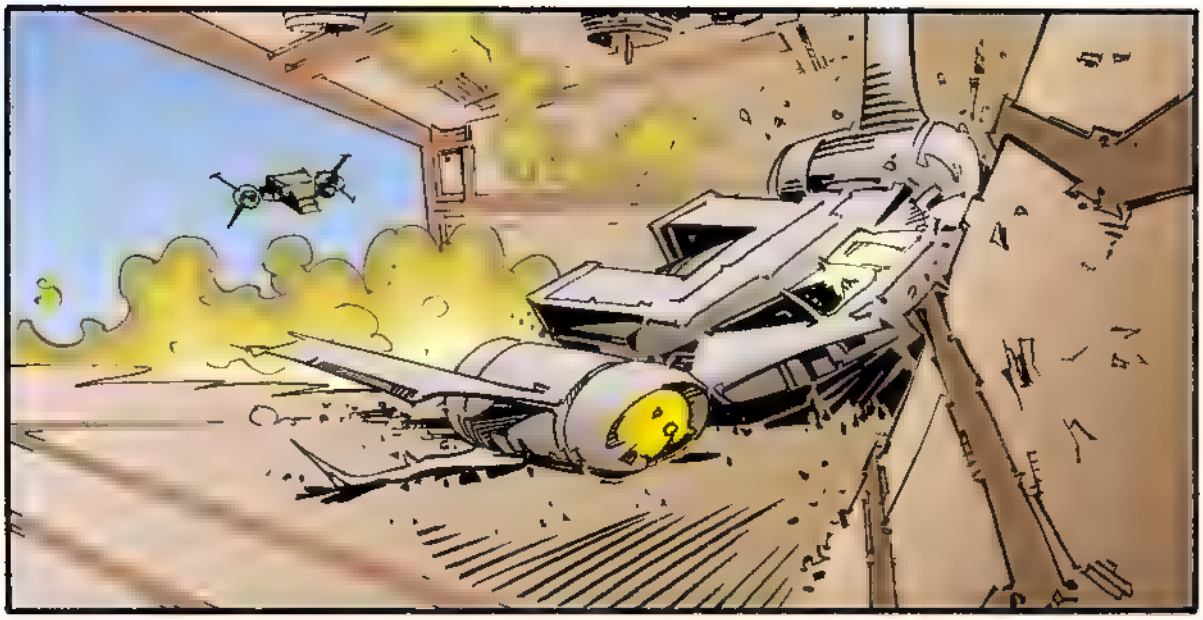

DEE-DEE PEETOO!
I'M ON HIM, ARTOO! OLAG MUST'VE SPOTTED US! HANG ON, THREEPIO!
AAAIIIEEEE! UNIT ZED--!
YOU...YOU WERE PROGRAMMED TO FLY LIKE THIS?!
NOPE. FIRST TIME I HAVE A SUBROUTINE THAT LETS ME... IMPROVISE.
OLAG'S BLOCKING MY COM-SIGNAL WE CAN'T IDENTIFY OURSELVES!
HMM... WHICH BUTTON IS FOR THE LASER CANNON...?
OH DEAR...

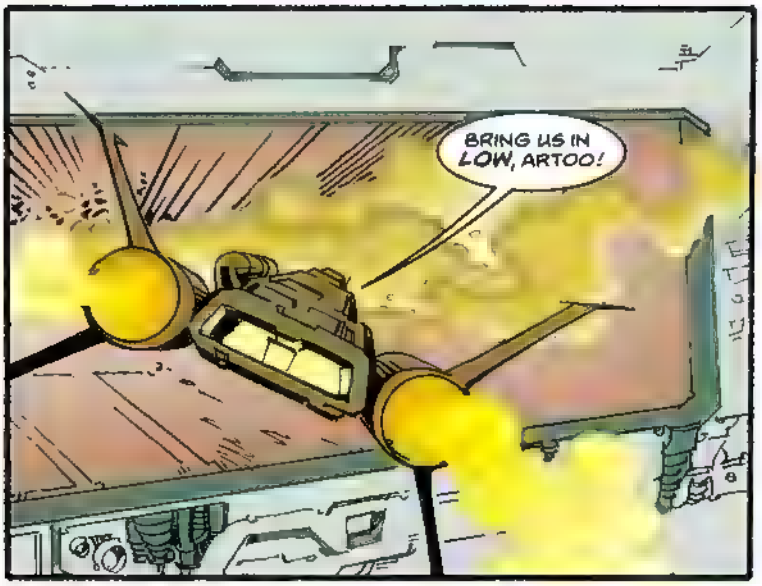
WHAT THE--?! A WARNING SHOT... IN NAR SHADDAA!? THEY'RE DEFINITELY NOT MOVO'S MEN!
XOB! RETURN FIRE!
THAT DOES IT...!
PROGRAMMING OR NOT, I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

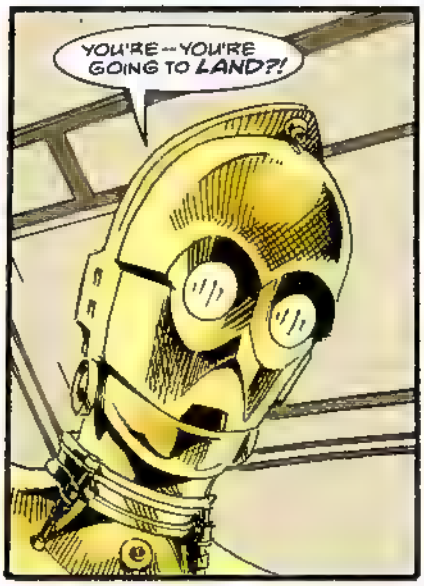
STOP WASTING TIME, YOU DIMWIT! GET US TO MOVO'S DOCKING TOWER-- FAST!
WHOEVER THEY ARE, LET MOVO'S TURBO-LASERS TAKE CARE OF THEM!
PULL UP, XOB! UP!

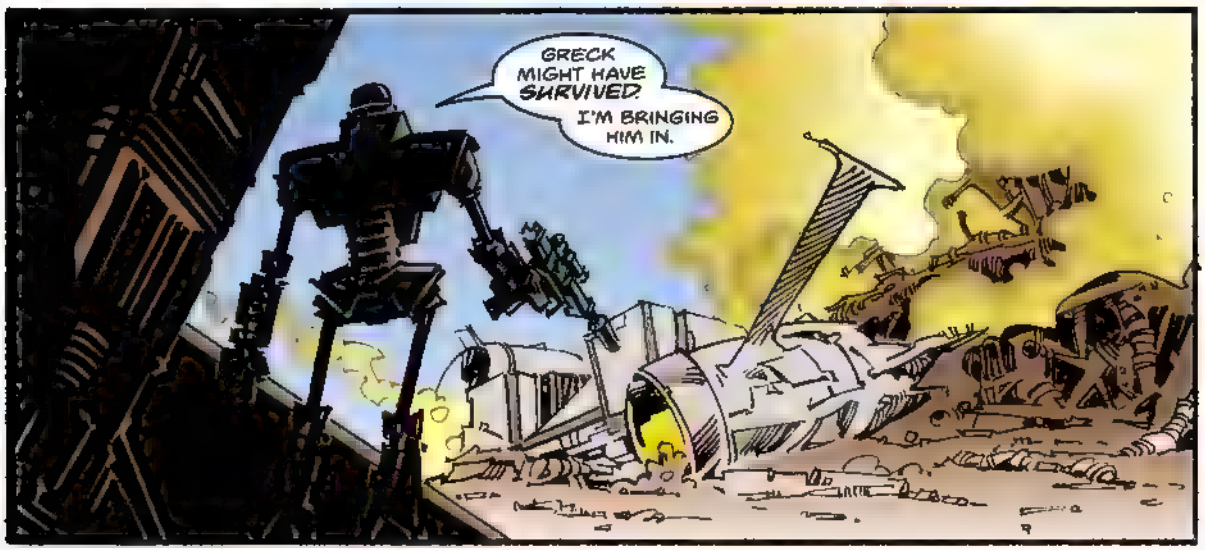

THERE'S THE DOCKING TOWER! HURRY!
THEY GOT OUR CANNON-- AND OUR CIRCUITS ARE FRIED!
DO SOME-THING, XOB!
GURK?!
UNIT ZED! THAT TOWER UP AHEAD... IT CORRELATES WITH THE INTERCEPTED LOCATION DATA!
GOOD... I'D HATE TO THINK OLAG WOULD CRASH JUST ANYWHERE!

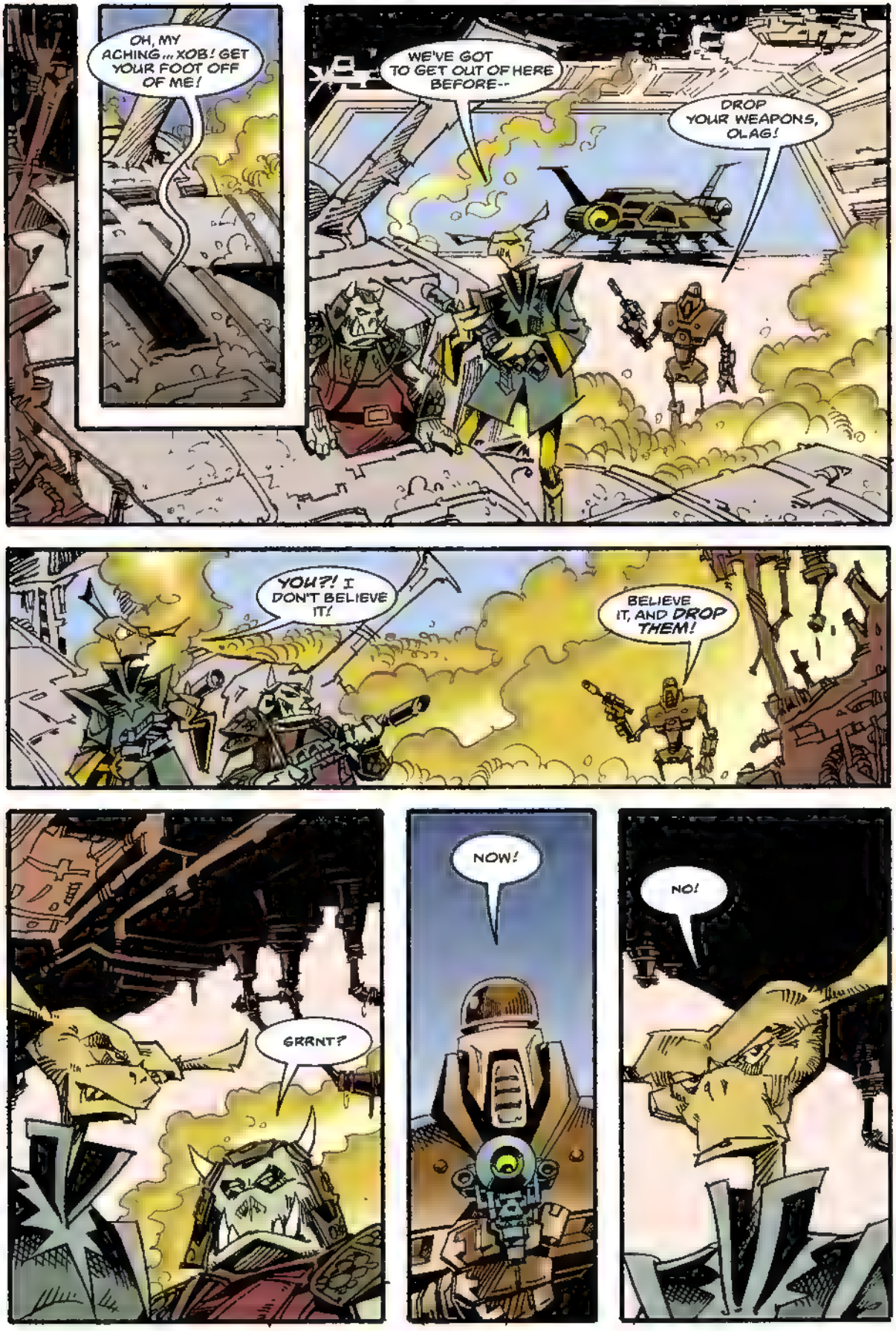

WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?!
TWO SHIPS COMING IN FAST, MOVO! NO TIME TO POWER-UP DAMPING SHIELDS-- CLEAR THE DECK!
OLAG?! NO!

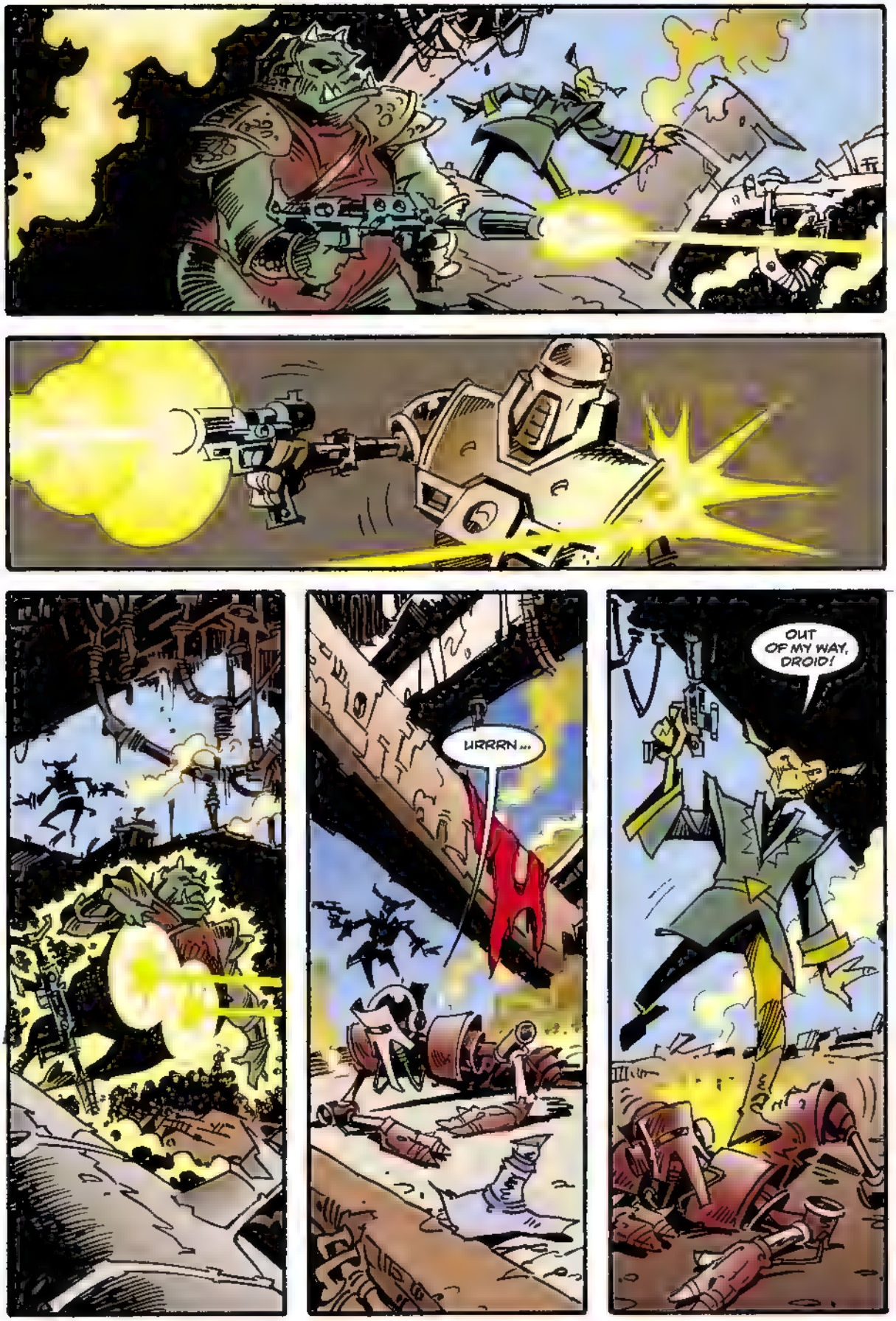


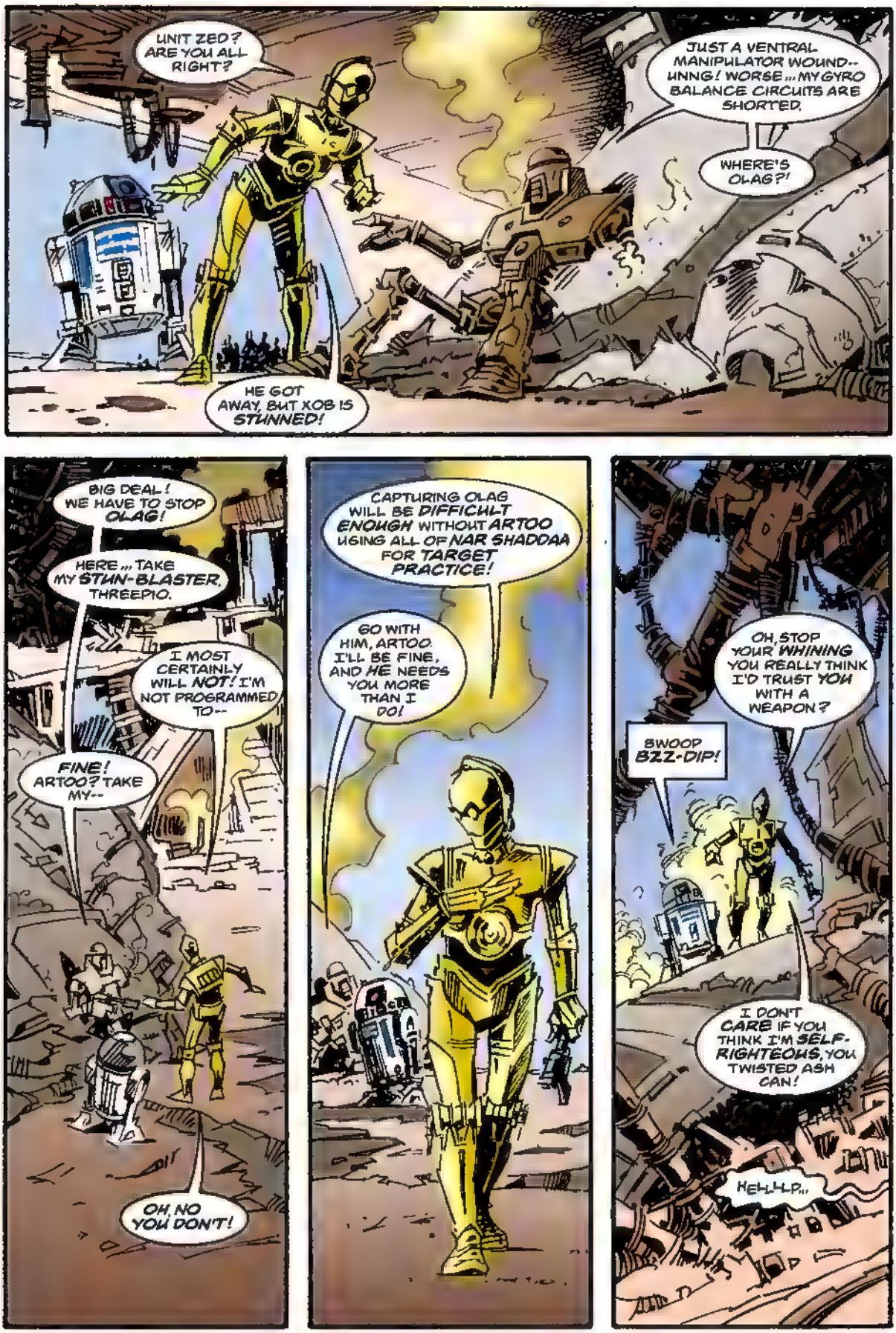

BRING US IN LOW, ARTOO!

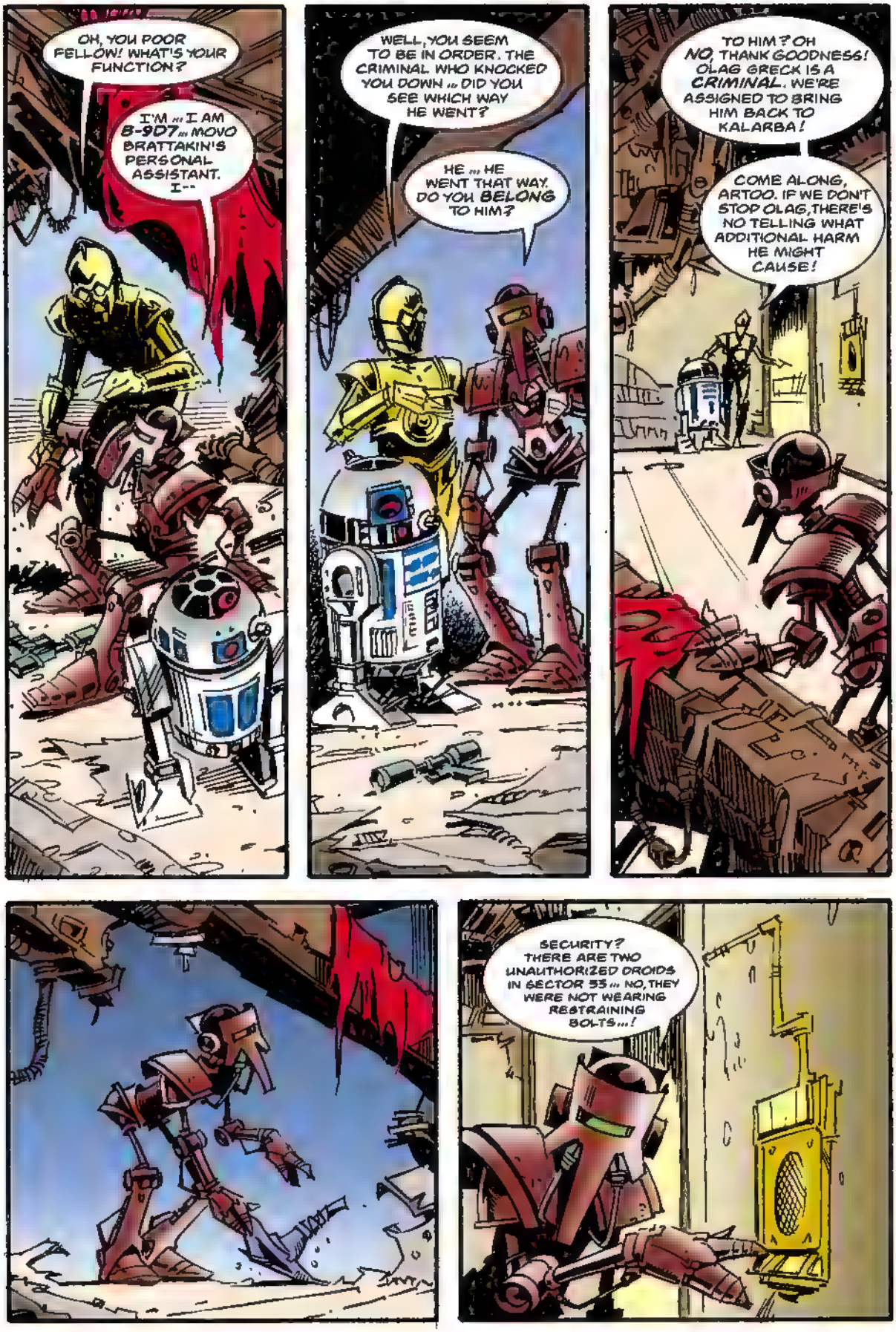

YOU'RE -- YOU'RE GOING TO LAND?!

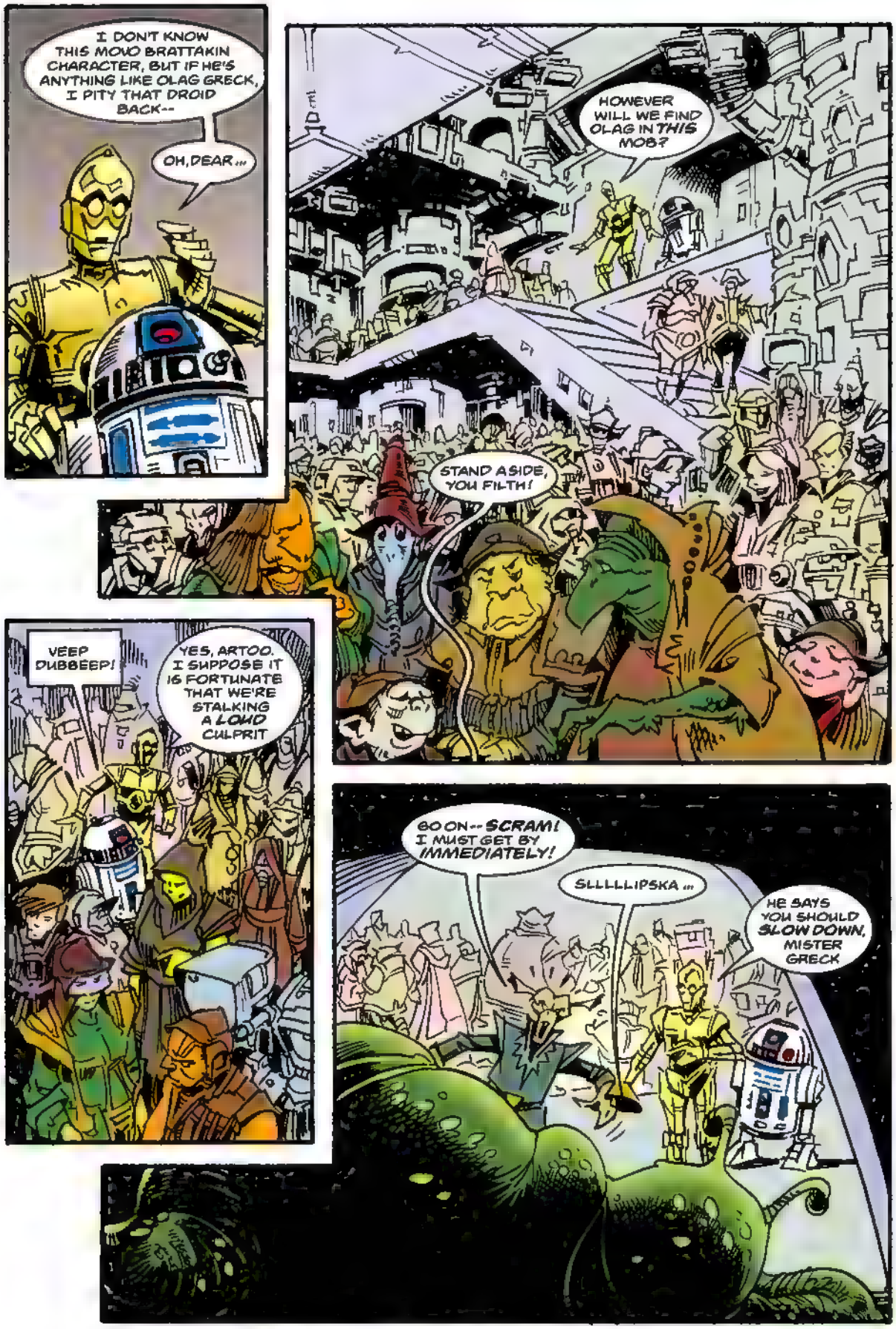

GRECK MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED. I'M BRINGING HIM IN.

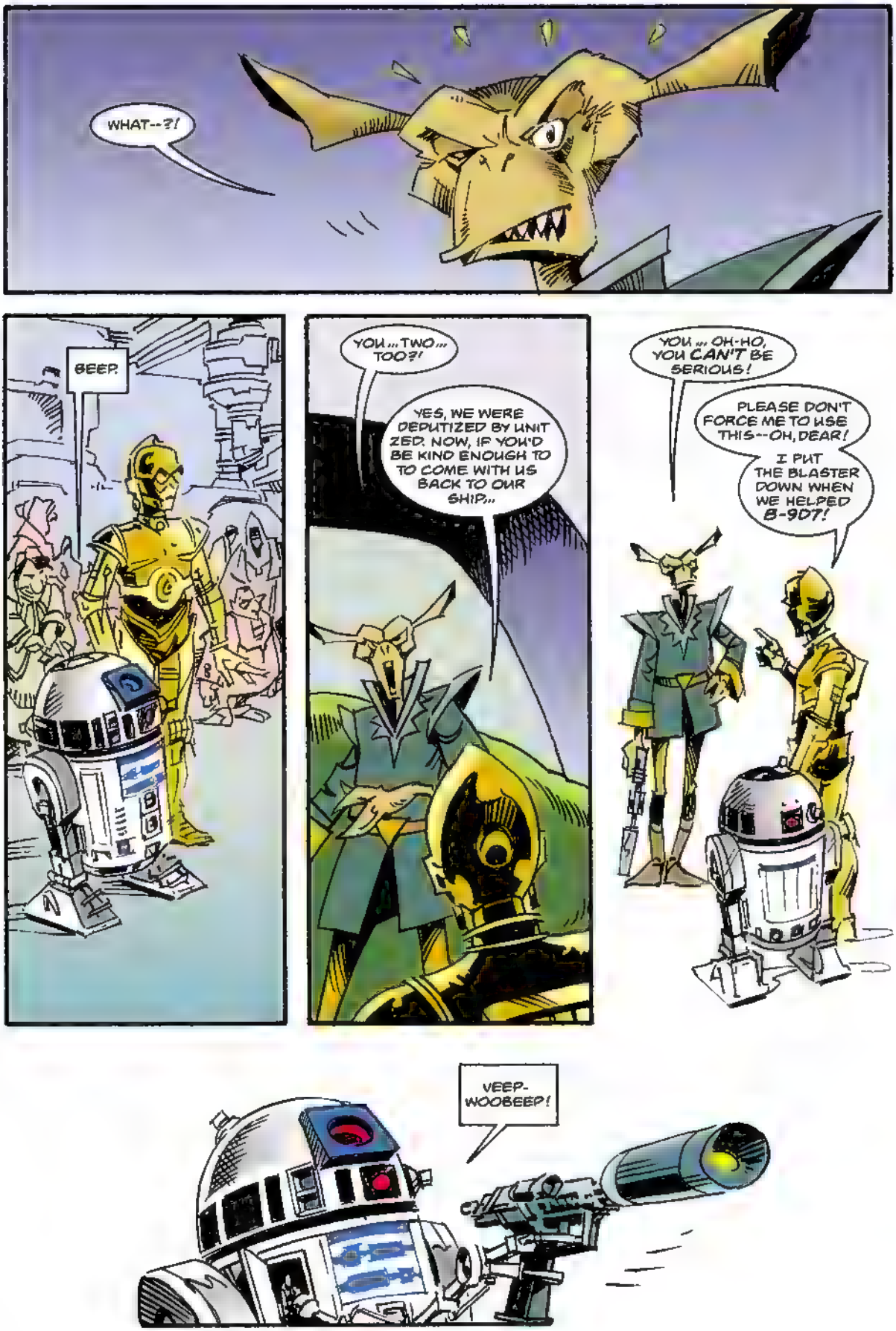

OH, MY ACHING... XOB! GET YOUR FOOT OFF OF ME!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
DROP YOUR WEAPONS, OLAG!
YOU?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
BELIEVE IT, AND DROP THEM!
GRRNT?
NOW!
NO!


URRRN...
OUT OF MY WAY, DROID!


UNIT ZED? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
JUST A VENTRAL MANIPULATOR WOUND-- UNNG! WORSE... MY GYRO BALANCE CIRCUITS ARE SHORTED.
WHERE'S OLAG?!
HE GOT AWAY, BUT XOB IS STUNNED!
BIG DEAL! WE HAVE TO STOP OLAG!
HERE... TAKE MY STUN-BLASTER, THREEPIO.
I MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT! I'M NOT PROGRAMMED TO--
FINE! ARTOO? TAKE MY--
OH, NO YOU DON'T!
CAPTURING OLAG WILL BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH WITHOUT ARTOO USING ALL OF NAR SHADDAA FOR TARGET PRACTICE!
GO WITH HIM, ARTOO. I'LL BE FINE, AND HE NEEDS YOU MORE THAN I DO!
OH, STOP YOUR WHINING YOU REALLY THINK I'D TRUST YOU WITH A WEAPON?
BWOOP BZZ-DIP!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU THINK I'M SELF-RIGHTEOUS, YOU TWISTED ASH CAN!
HELLLP...

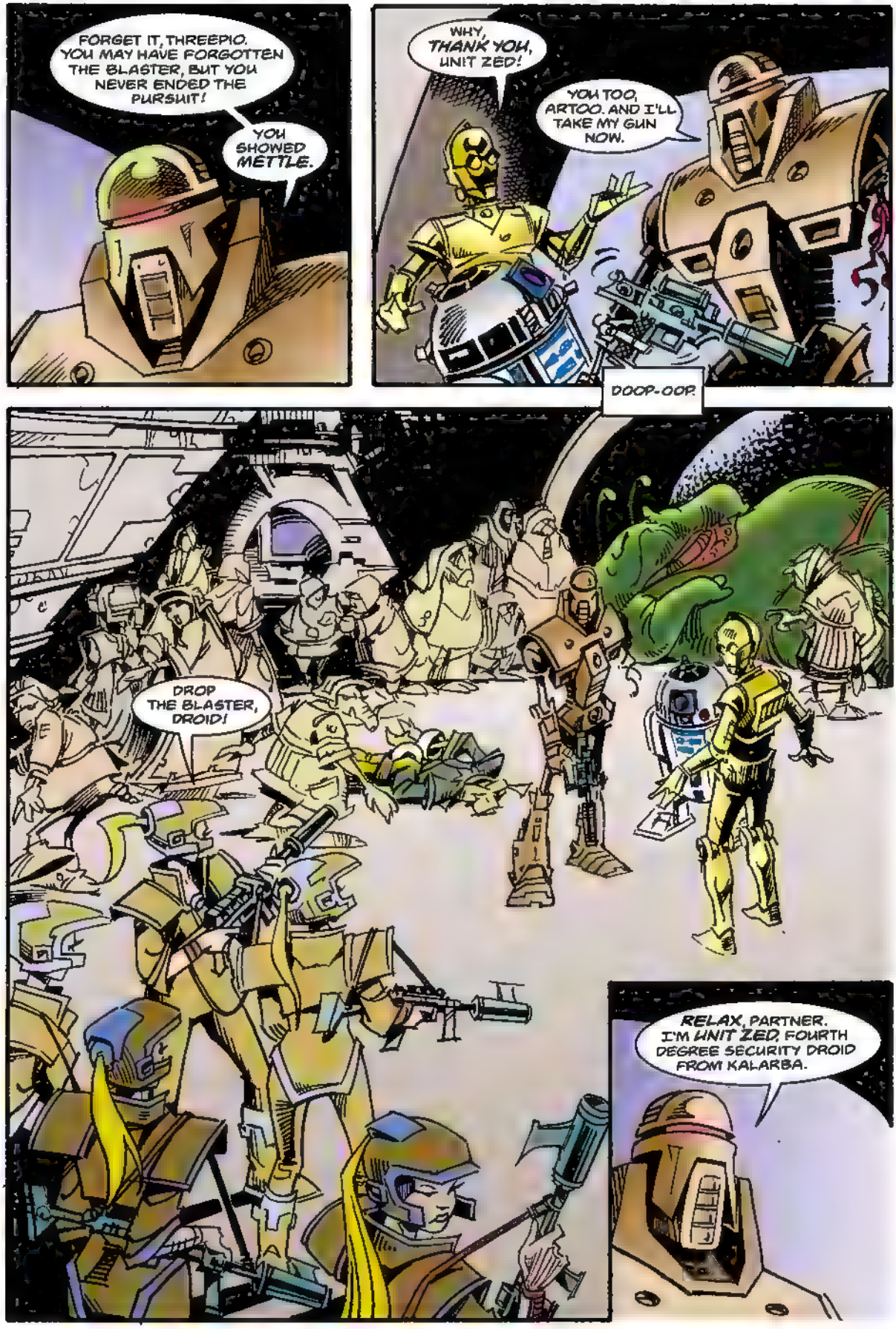

OH, YOU POOR FELLOW! WHAT'S YOUR FUNCTION?
I'M ... I AM 8-9D7... MOVO BRATTAKIN'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT. I--
WELL, YOU SEEM TO BE IN ORDER. THE CRIMINAL WHO KNOCKED YOU DOWN ... DID YOU SEE WHICH WAY HE WENT?
HE ... HE WENT THAT WAY. DO YOU BELONG TO HIM?
TO HIM? OH NO, THANK GOODNESS! OLAG GRECK IS A CRIMINAL. WE'RE ASSIGNED TO BRING HIM BACK TO KALARBA!
COME ALONG, ARTOO. IF WE DON'T STOP OLAG, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT ADDITIONAL HARM HE MIGHT CAUSE!
SECURITY? THERE ARE TWO UNAUTHORIZED DROIDS IN SECTOR 55 ... NO, THEY WERE NOT WEARING RESTRAINING BOLTS...!


I DON'T KNOW THIS MOVO BRATTAKIN CHARACTER, BUT IF HE'S ANYTHING LIKE OLAG GRECK, I PITY THAT DROID BACK--
OH, DEAR...
HOWEVER WILL WE FIND OLAG IN THIS MOB?
STAND ASIDE, YOU FILTH!
VEEP DUBBEEP!
YES, ARTOO. I SUPPOSE IT IS FORTUNATE THAT WE'RE STALKING A LOUD CULPRIT
GO ON -- SCRAM! I MUST GET BY IMMEDIATELY!
SLLLLLIPSKA...
HE SAYS YOU SHOULD SLOW DOWN, MISTER GRECK


WHAT--?!
BEEP.
YOU...TWO... TOO?!
YES, WE WERE DEPUTIZED BY UNIT ZED. NOW, IF YOU'D BE KIND ENOUGH TO TO COME WITH US BACK TO OUR SHIP...
YOU... OH-HO, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
PLEASE DON'T FORCE ME TO USE THIS--OH, DEAR!
I PUT THE BLASTER DOWN WHEN WE HELPED B-9D7!
VEEP-WOOBEEP!

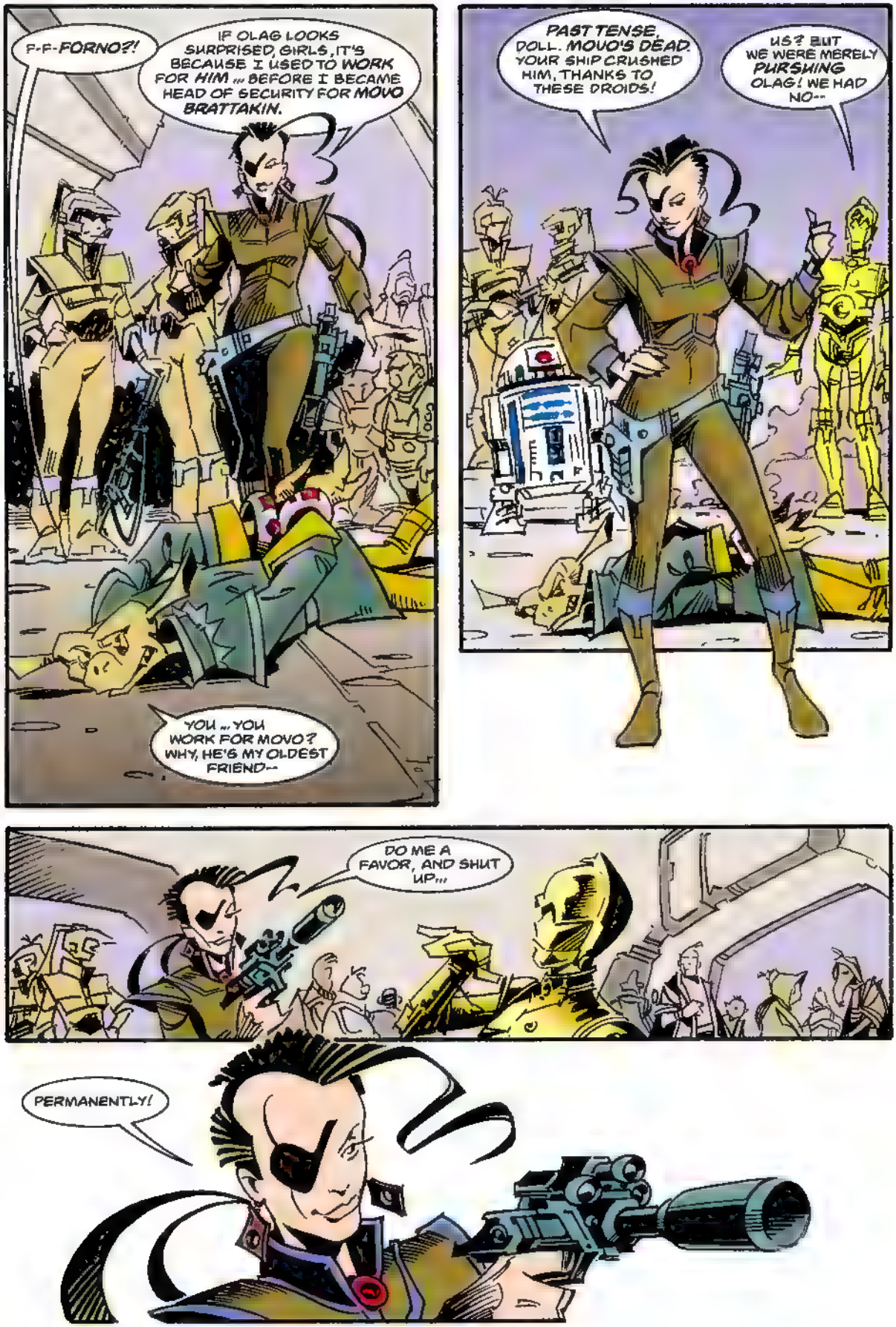
GOOD GOING, ARTOO! NOW GIVE ME THE BLASTER...
I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU MEDDLESOME POTS AND PANS!
HHHRRRAAAAOOOOOO!
WHA--?!
oh my...
HALPPPPFF...!
VREE-PA-WEET!

NO, ARTOO, IT WASN'T ATTACKING HIM! IT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN STARTLED!
EXCELLENT DEDUCTION, THREEPIO... IT WAS.
UNIT ZED! WHERE DID YOU--
MY GYRO-BALANCE CIRCUITRY WAS ONLY DISRUPTED BY MY LOST ARM... I IMPROVISED.
I'LL TAKE THAT.
THREEPIO, ARTOO; HELP ME MOVE THIS LARGE FELLOW.
AT LAST...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LEFT THE BLASTER BEHIND...!

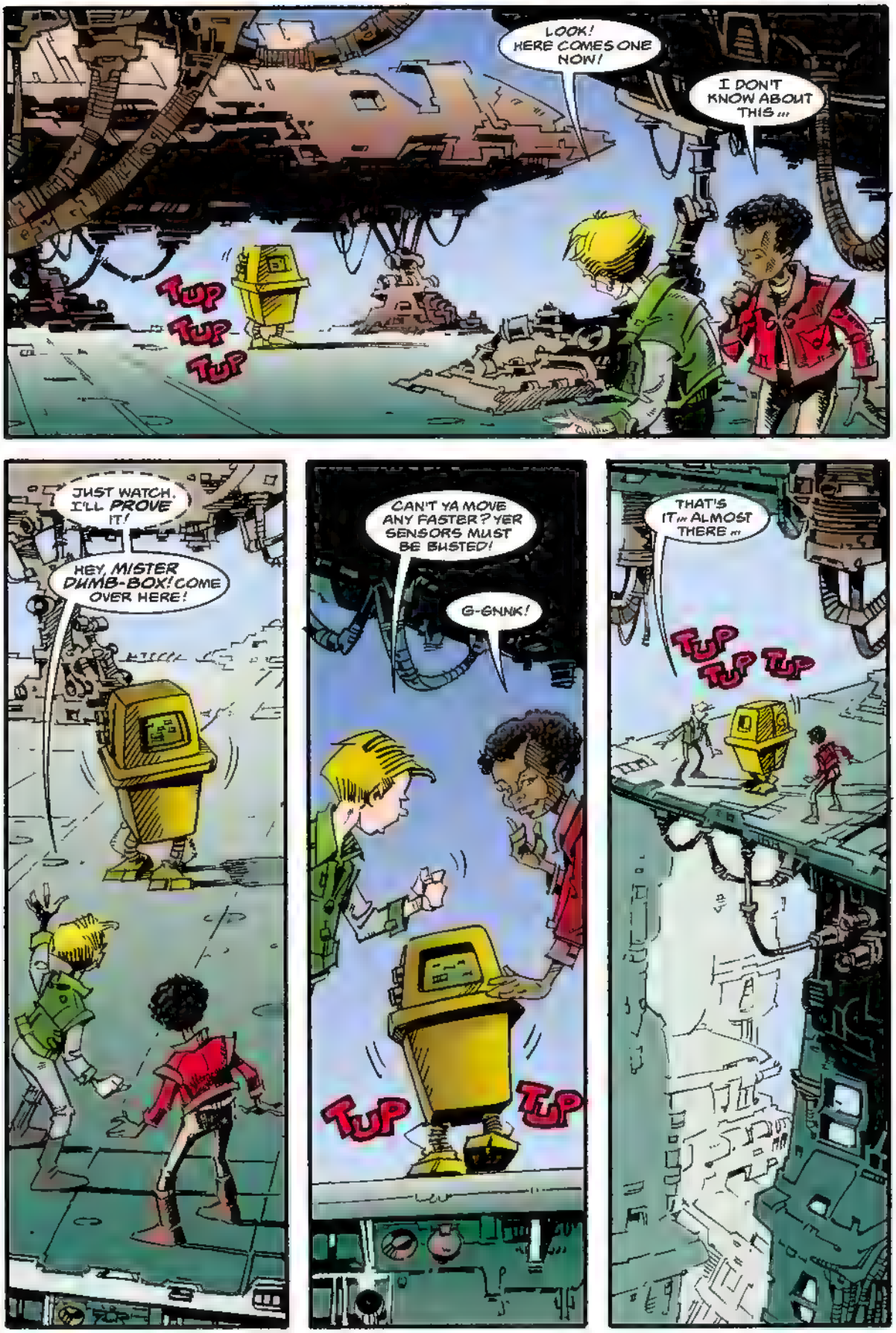

FORGET IT, THREEPIO. YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN THE BLASTER, BUT YOU NEVER ENDED THE PURSUIT!
YOU SHOWED METTLE.
WHY, THANK YOU, UNIT ZED!
YOU TOO, ARTOO. AND I'LL TAKE MY GUN NOW.
DOOP-OOP.
DROP THE BLASTER, DROID!
RELAX, PARTNER. I'M UNIT ZED, FOURTH DEGREE SECURITY DROID FROM KALARBA.

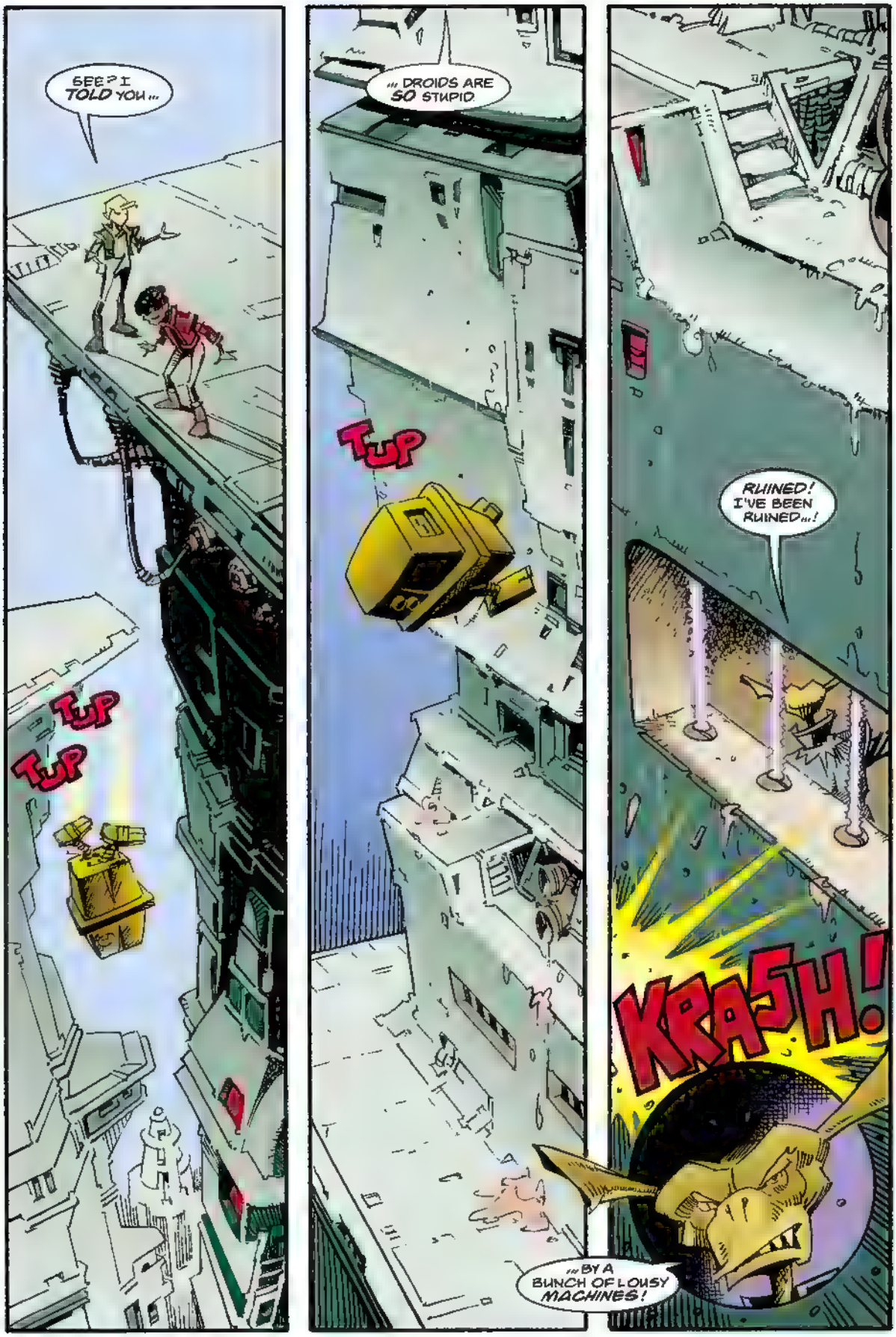
REALLY?
BONK!
OH NO!
OH NO!

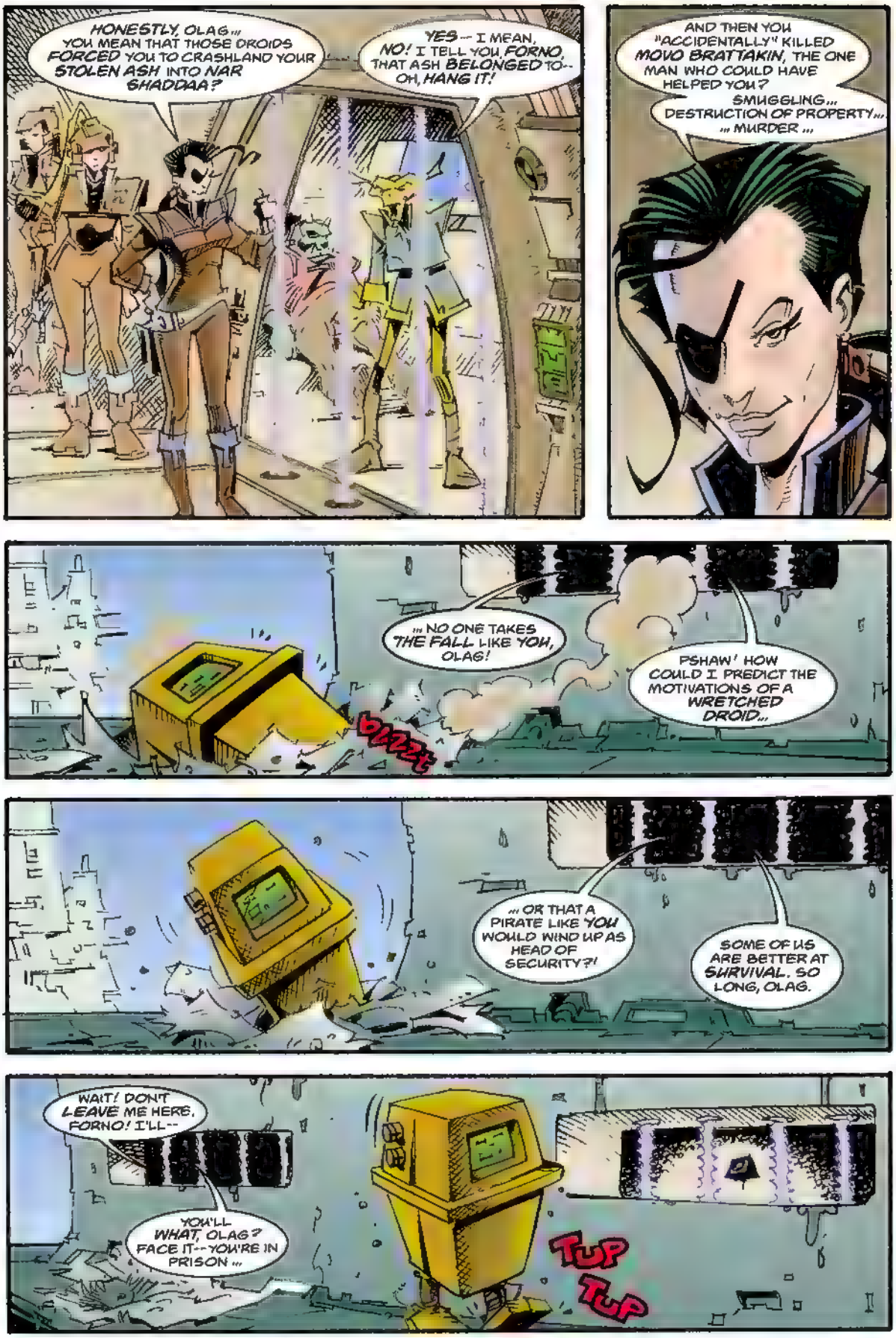
UNIT ZED... HOLD STILL! ARTOO AND I... WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO YOUR SHIP, AND--
UKT-- TOO LATE... NEVER MAKE IT. GOT GRECK-- DID JOB. GOOD WORK, PARTNERSSKTT-*
WOOO?
HE... HE'S GONE.
YOU TALK LIKE THAT THING WAS ALIVE! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, DROID!
I... FORGIVE ME, MADAM. WHERE WE CAME FROM, UNIT ZED WAS PRACTICALLY... A HERO.
HE... HE PREVENTED A DISASTER ON HOSK!
WHY... BY CAPTURING OLAG GRECK, UNIT ZED PROBABLY SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES ON NAR SHADDAA--
DON'T BE SO SURE, SEE-THREEPIO...!

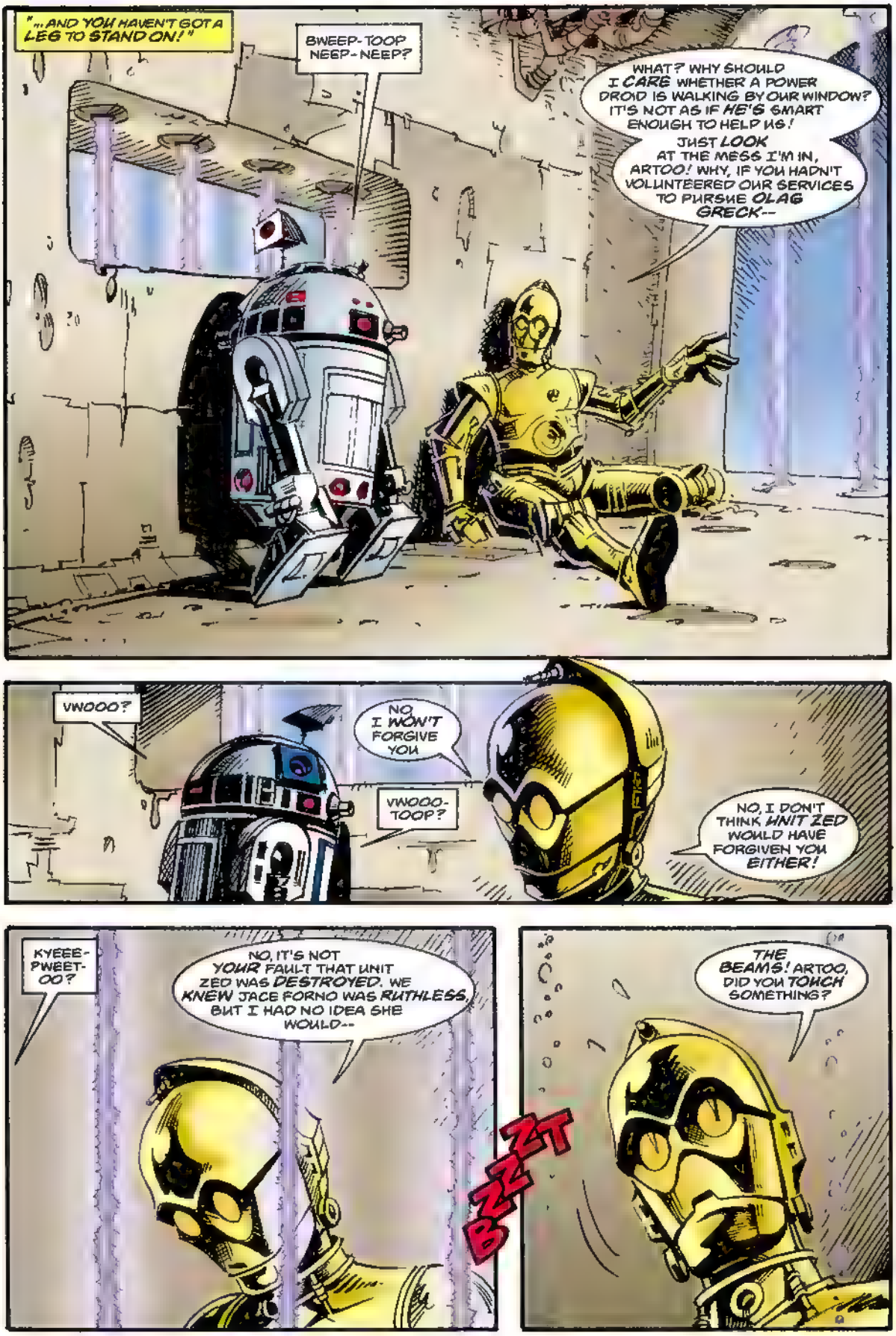

F-F-FORNO?!
IF OLAG LOOKS SURPRISED, GIRLS, IT'S BECAUSE I USED TO WORK FOR HIM ... BEFORE I BECAME HEAD OF SECURITY FOR MOVO BRATTAKIN.
YOU ... YOU WORK FOR MOVO? WHY, HE'S MY OLDEST FRIEND--
PAST TENSE, DOLL. MOVO'S DEAD. YOUR SHIP CRUSHED HIM, THANKS TO THESE DROIDS!
US? BUT WE WERE MERELY PURSUING OLAG! WE HAD NO--
DO ME A FAVOR, AND SHUT UP...
PERMANENTLY!

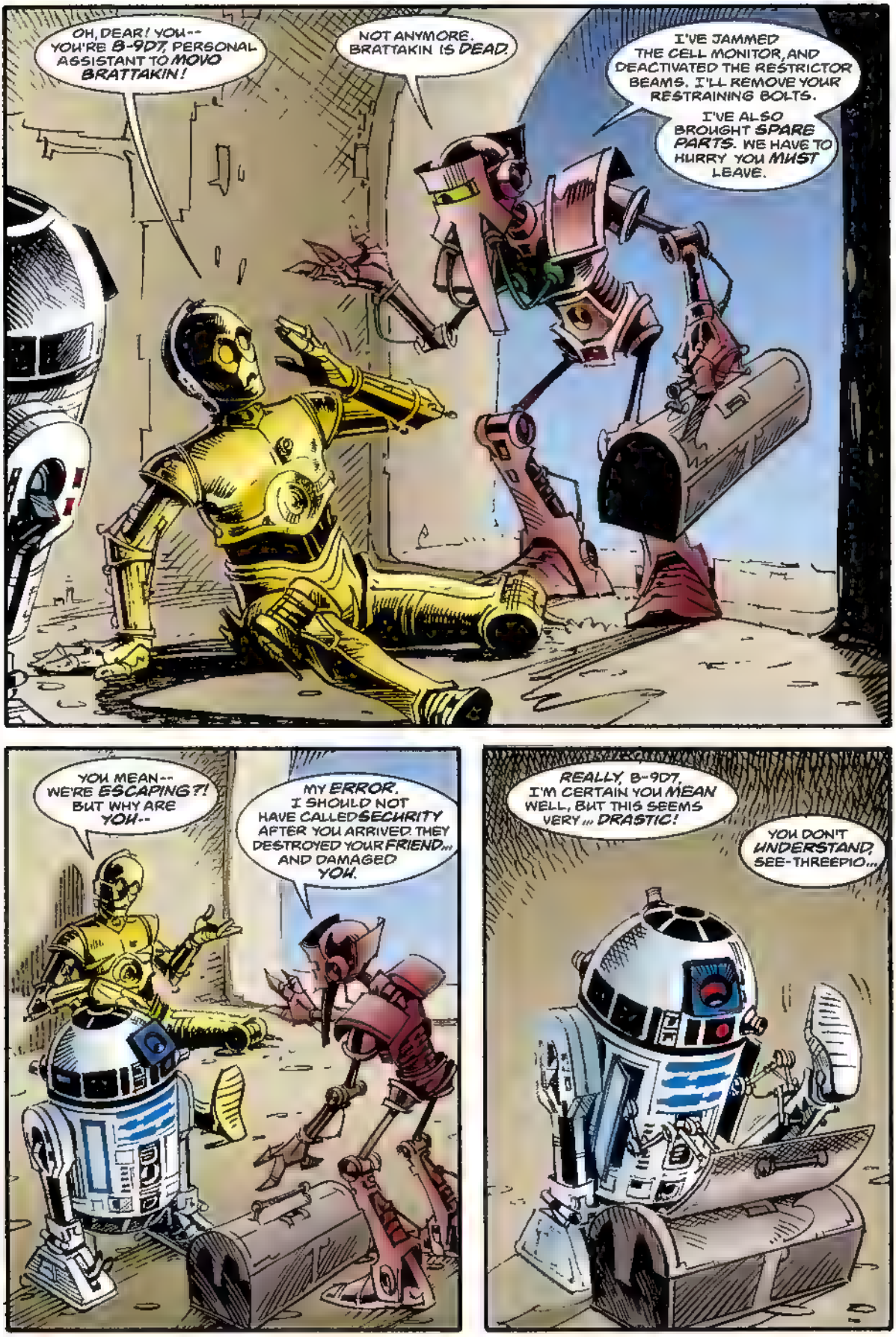
ARTOOO!
FWOOOOOO...

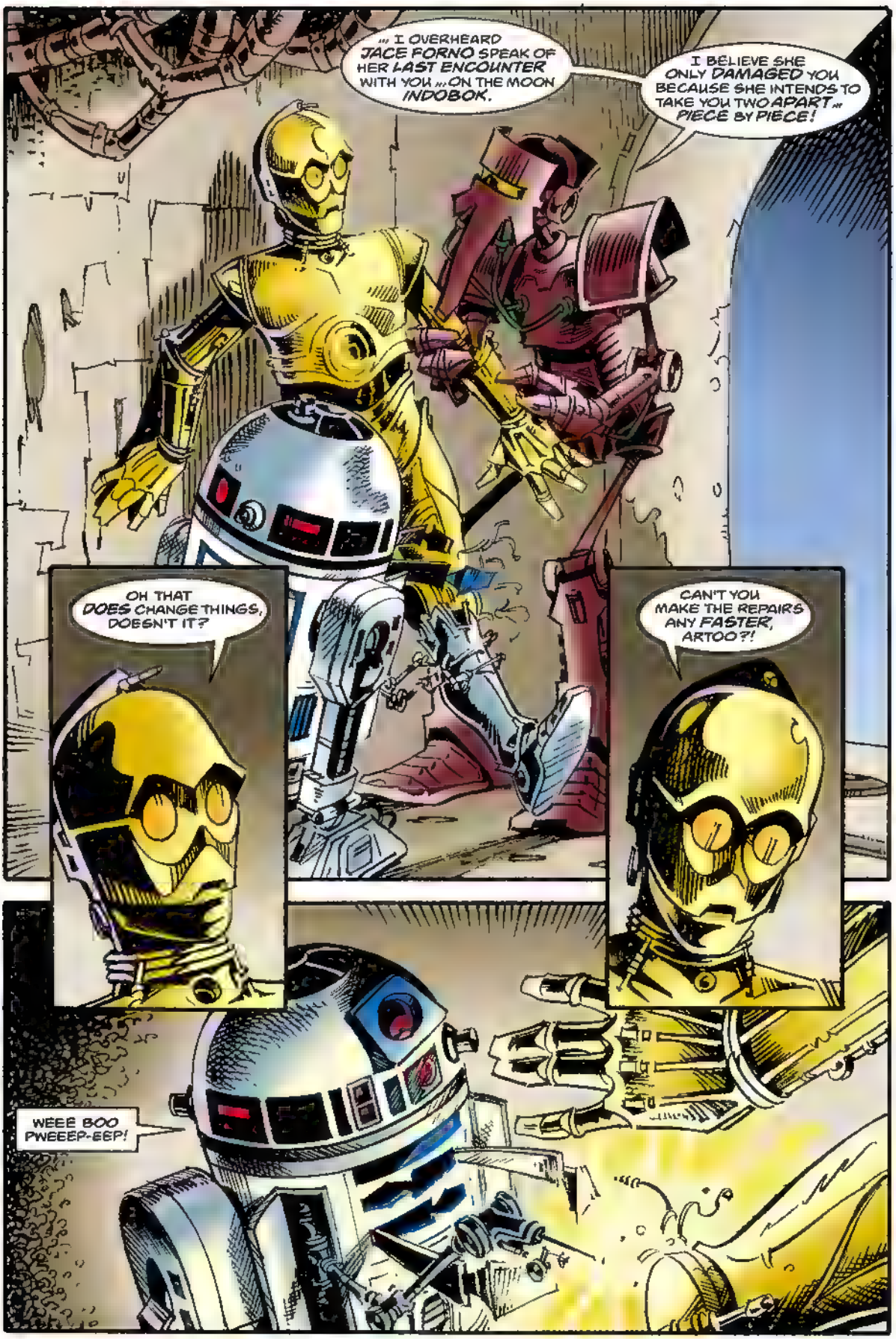

LOOK! HERE COMES ONE NOW!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
TUP TUP TUP
JUST WATCH. I'LL PROVE IT!
HEY, MISTER DUMB-BOX! COME OVER HERE!
CAN'T YA MOVE ANY FASTER? YER SENSORS MUST BE BUSTED!
G-GNNK!
TUP TUP
THAT'S IT... ALMOST THERE...
TUP TUP TUP

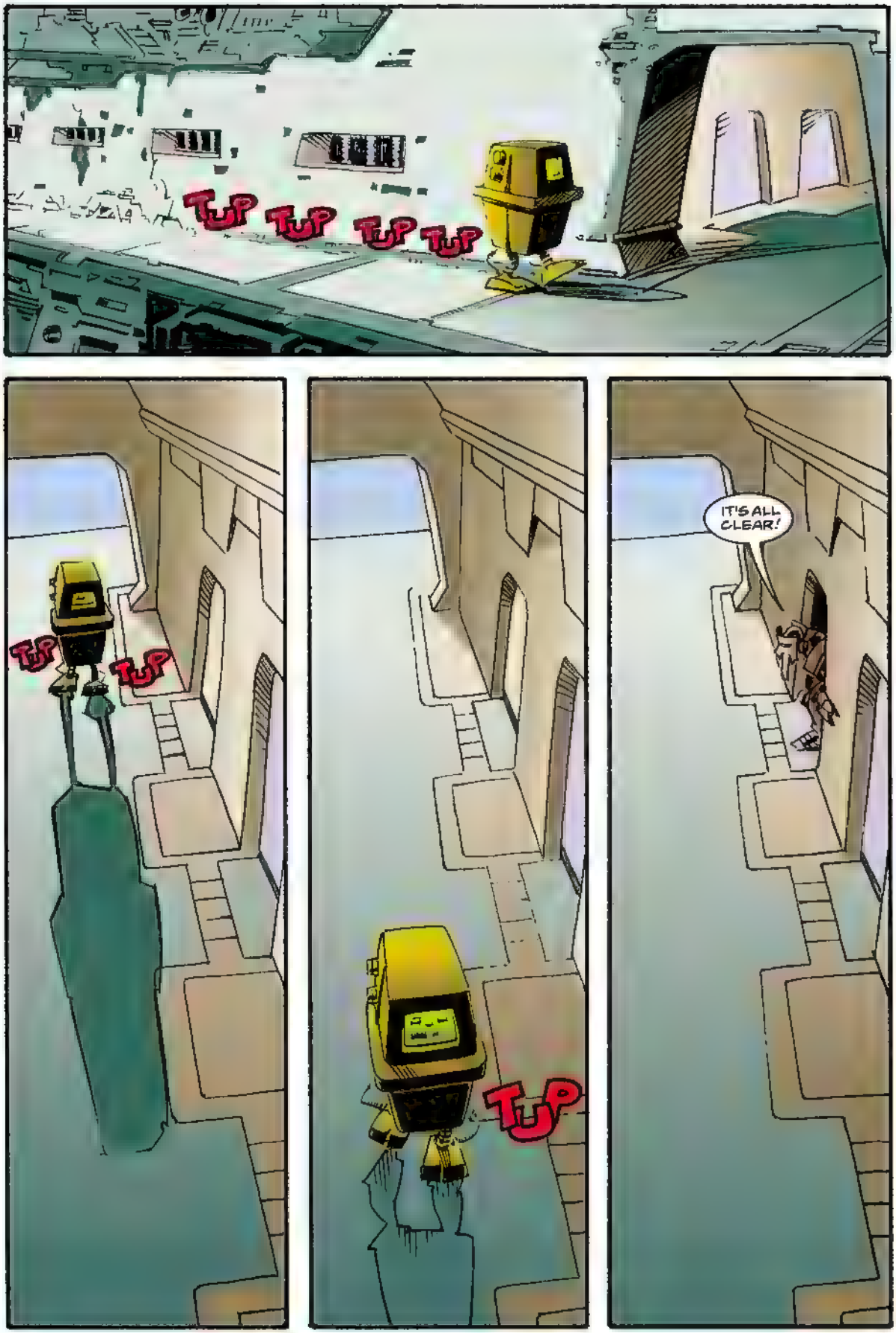

SEE? I TOLD YOU...
TUP
TUP
...DROIDS ARE SO STUPID
TUP
RUINED! I'VE BEEN RUINED...!
KRASH!
...BY A BUNCH OF LOUSY MACHINES!

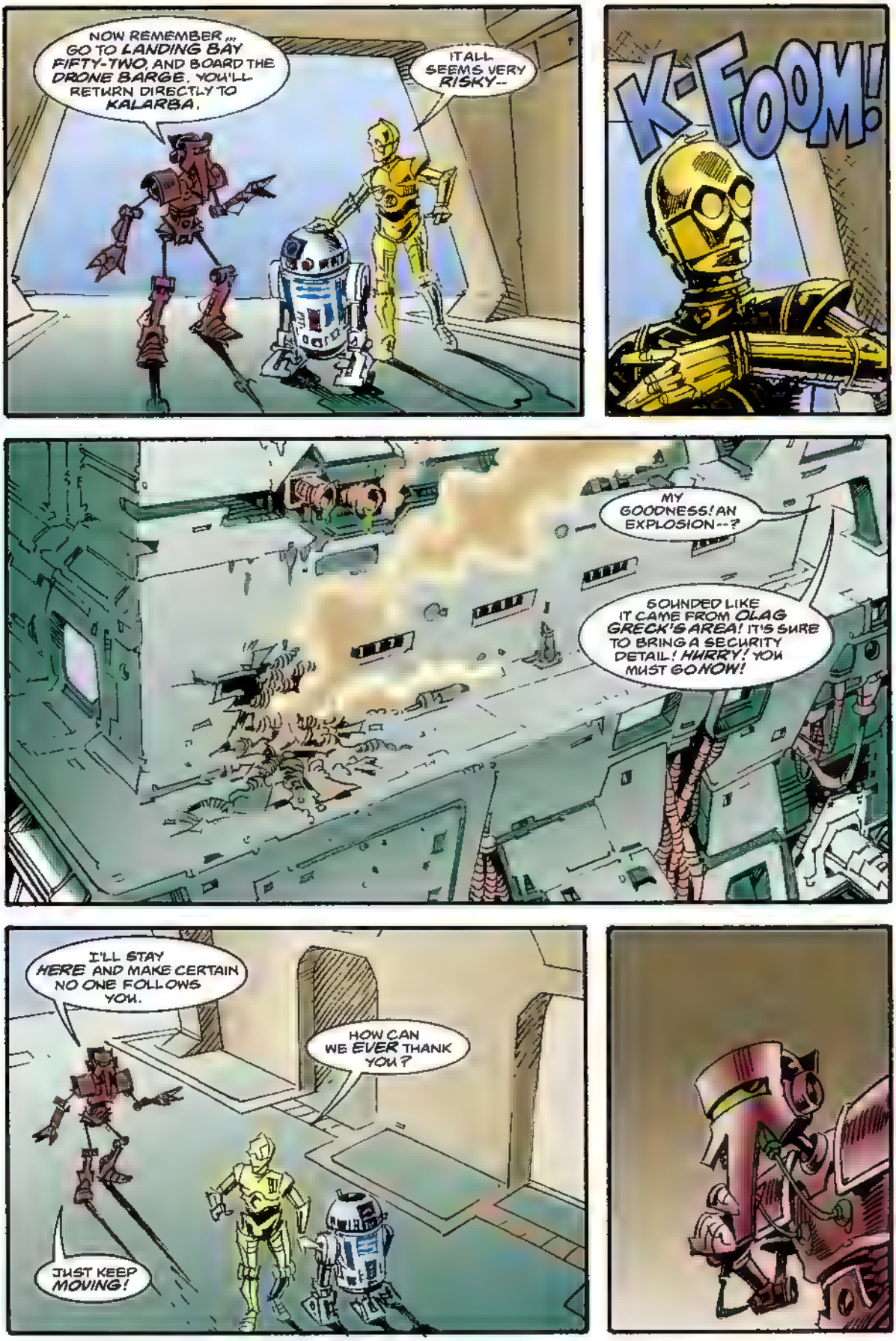

HONESTLY, OLAG... YOU MEAN THAT THOSE DROIDS FORCED YOU TO CRASHLAND YOUR STOLEN ASH INTO NAR SHADDAA?
YES -- I MEAN, NO! I TELL YOU, FORNO, THAT ASH BELONGED TO-- OH, HANG IT!
AND THEN YOU "ACCIDENTALLY" KILLED MOVO BRATTAKIN, THE ONE MAN WHO COULD HAVE HELPED YOU?
SMUGGLING... DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY... ...MURDER...
...NO ONE TAKES THE FALL LIKE YOU, OLAG!
PSHAW! HOW COULD I PREDICT THE MOTIVATIONS OF A WRETCHED DROID...
BLAZZT
...OR THAT A PIRATE LIKE YOU WOULD WIND UP AS HEAD OF SECURITY?!
SOME OF US ARE BETTER AT SURVIVAL. SO LONG, OLAG.
WAIT! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE, FORNO! I'LL--
YOU'LL WHAT, OLAG? FACE IT--YOU'RE IN PRISON...
TUP TUP


"...AND YOU HAVEN'T GOT A LEG TO STAND ON!"
BWEEP-TOOP NEEP-NEEP?
WHAT? WHY SHOULD I CARE WHETHER A POWER DROID IS WALKING BY OUR WINDOW? IT'S NOT AS IF HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO HELP US!
JUST LOOK AT THE MESS I'M IN, ARTOO! WHY, IF YOU HADN'T VOLUNTEERED OUR SERVICES TO PURSUE OLAG GRECK--
VWOOO?
NO, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU
VWOOO-TOOP?
NO, I DON'T THINK UNIT ZED WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN YOU EITHER!
KYEEE-PWEET-OO?
NO, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT UNIT ZED WAS DESTROYED. WE KNEW JACE FORNO WAS RUTHLESS, BUT I HAD NO IDEA SHE WOULD--
BZZZT
THE BEAMS! ARTOO, DID YOU TOUCH SOMETHING?


OH, DEAR! YOU-- YOU'RE B-9D7, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MOVO BRATTAKIN!
NOT ANYMORE. BRATTAKIN IS DEAD.
I'VE JAMMED THE CELL MONITOR, AND DEACTIVATED THE RESTRICTOR BEAMS. I'LL REMOVE YOUR RESTRAINING BOLTS.
I'VE ALSO BROUGHT SPARE PARTS. WE HAVE TO HURRY. YOU MUST LEAVE.
YOU MEAN-- WE'RE ESCAPING?! BUT WHY ARE YOU--
MY ERROR. I SHOULD NOT HAVE CALLED SECURITY AFTER YOU ARRIVED. THEY DESTROYED YOUR FRIEND... AND DAMAGED YOU.
REALLY, B-9D7, I'M CERTAIN YOU MEAN WELL, BUT THIS SEEMS VERY... DRASTIC!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SEE-THREEPIO...


... I OVERHEARD JACE FORNO SPEAK OF HER LAST ENCOUNTER WITH YOU ... ON THE MOON INDOBOK.
I BELIEVE SHE ONLY DAMAGED YOU BECAUSE SHE INTENDS TO TAKE YOU TWO APART ... PIECE BY PIECE!
OH THAT DOES CHANGE THINGS, DOESN'T IT?
CAN'T YOU MAKE THE REPAIRS ANY FASTER, ARTOO?!
WEEE BOO PWEEEP-EEP!

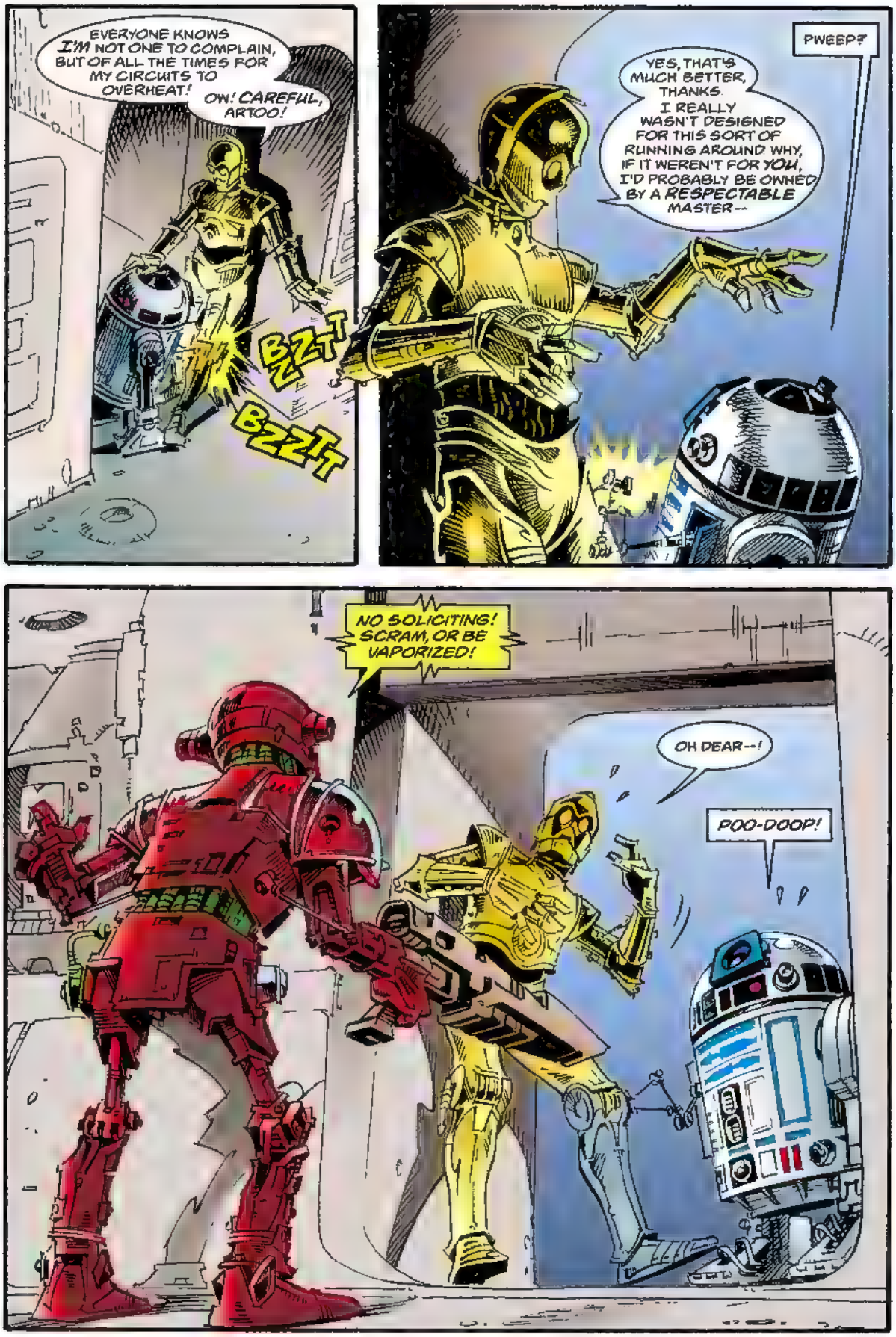

TUP TUP TUP TUP
TUP TUP
TUP
IT'S ALL CLEAR!

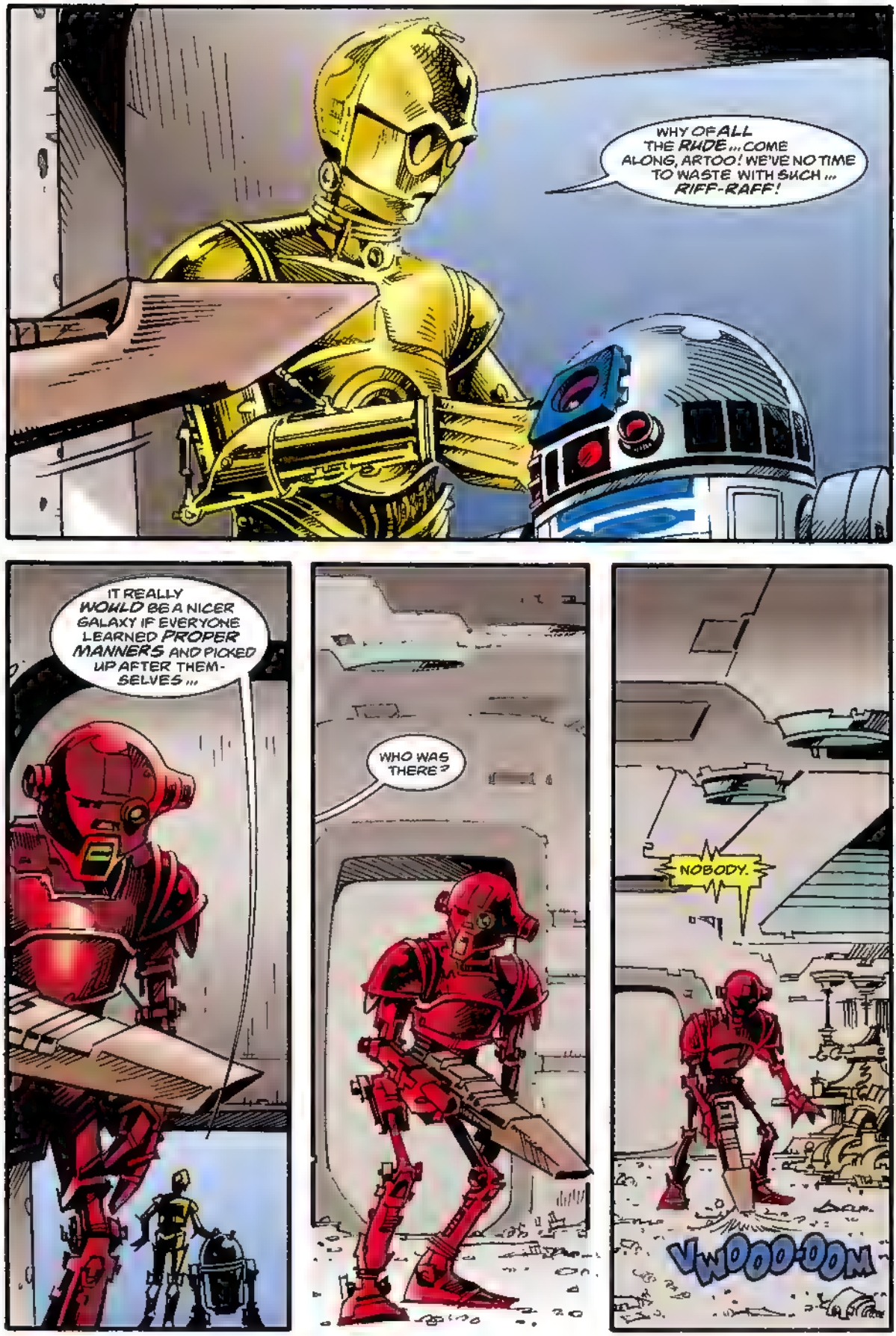

NOW REMEMBER... GO TO LANDING BAY FIFTY-TWO AND BOARD THE DRONE BARGE. YOU'LL RETURN DIRECTLY TO KALARBA.
IT ALL SEEMS VERY RISKY--
K-FOOM!
MY GOODNESS! AN EXPLOSION--?
SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM OLAG GRECK'S AREA! IT'S SURE TO BRING A SECURITY DETAIL! HURRY! YOU MUST GO NOW!
I'LL STAY HERE AND MAKE CERTAIN NO ONE FOLLOWS YOU.
HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU?
JUST KEEP MOVING!

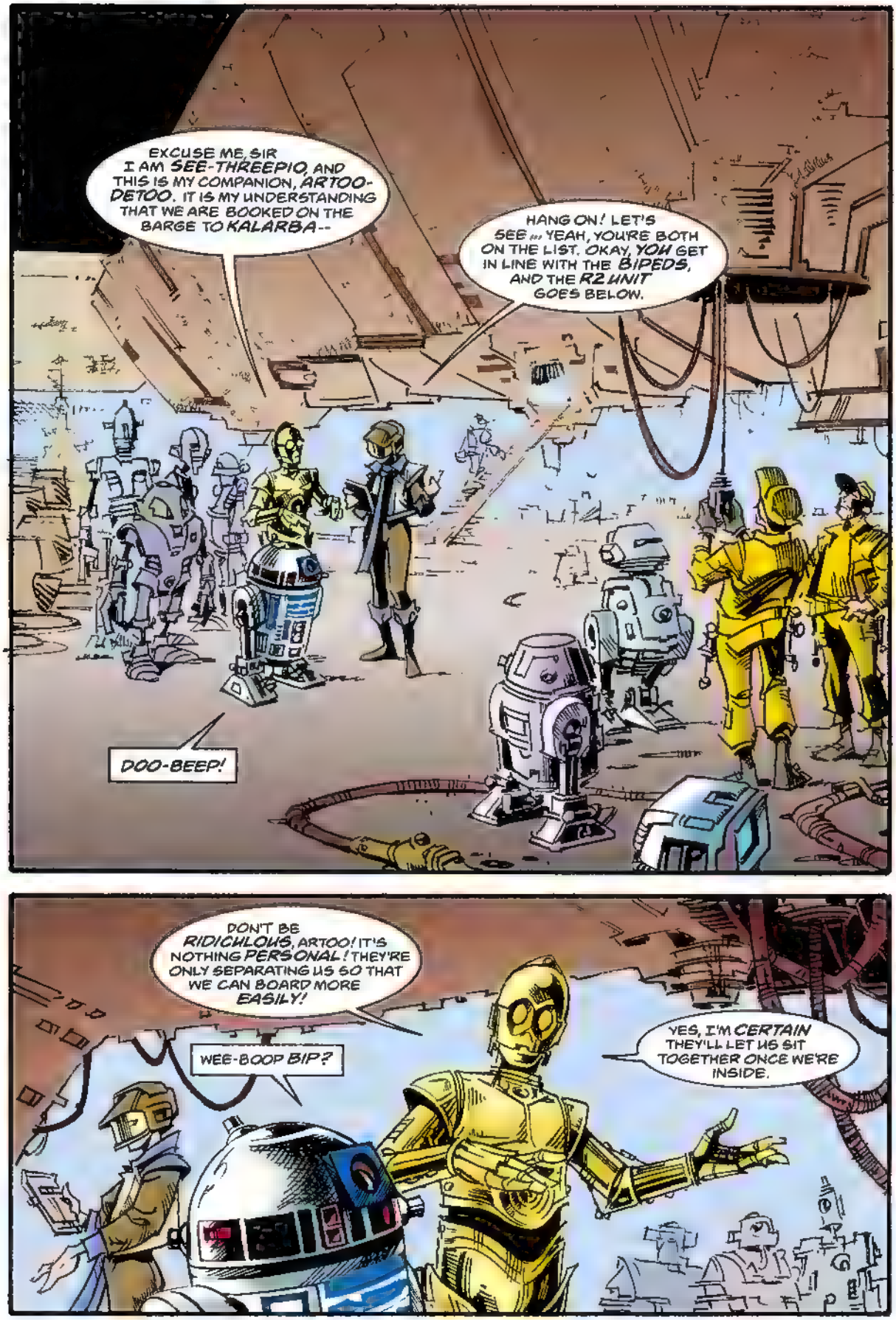
OLAG?!
THERE'S NO SIGN OF OLAG GRECK OR THE GAMORREAN, FORNO!
STANG! XOB MUST'VE HAD A CONCEALED CONCUSSION GRENADE! KEEP LOOKING! IF THEY'VE SURVIVED--
OH NO! CHECK THE DROIDS' CELL!
YOU NEED NOT BOTHER ..
.. THE DROIDS ARE GONE TOO!

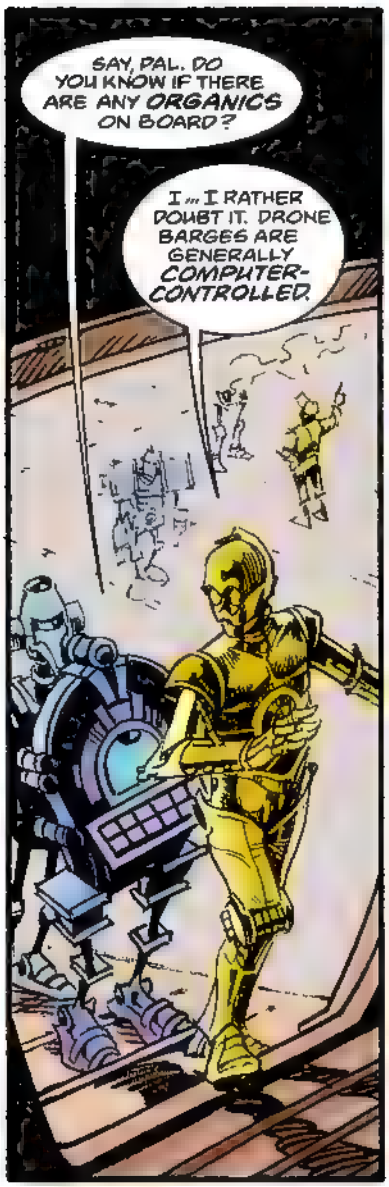
ARE YOU QUITE SURE WE'RE GOING THE RIGHT WAY, ARTOO? ISN'T THERE A MORE... DISCREET PASSAGE TO LANDING BAY FIFTY-TWO?
POOO-QUEEP!
OSSIDIO HOO RAH-D'URRAGO. ALLOO RAH OTTEGA?
ER... NIK NIK, BUDD OGLO.
AHH, BLAHGATTA. LLAGGAH GARROO.
LLAGGAH GARROO.
FWEEP BIP-BIP!
YOU HEARD ME! I THANKED HIM FOR THE OFFER AND TOLD HIM WE'RE ALREADY UNDER CONTRACT!
POOO REEP-ZZT!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE NEVER SERVED ON AN ITHORIAN HERD SHIP. WE'RE GOING BACK TO KALARBA, AND THAT'S THE END OF IT!
HE WAS FLATTERING, THOUGH THERE MUST BE A SHORTAGE OF AVAILABLE PROTOCOL DROIDS...
TUP TUP

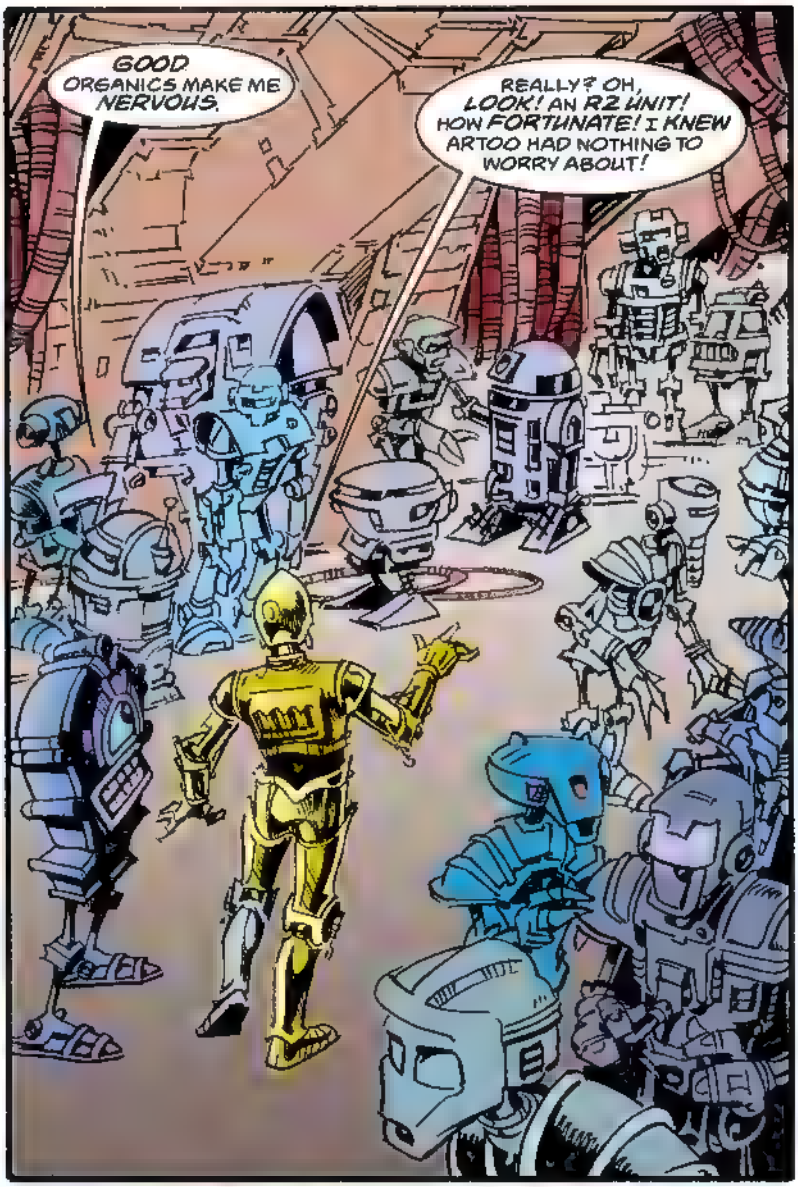
GGRRNT?
QUIET, XOB! DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO JAIL? WE'VE BEEN LUCKY SO FAR...
TUP TUP
...BREAKING OUT OF OUR CELL, THEN ROLLING A DRUNKEN BRUBB!
WITH THESE CREDITS, I'LL BUILD A NEW EMPIRE!
OF COURSE, ONE CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH START-UP CAPITAL...
GOOD DAY, SIR! WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN A NEARBY CANTINA...?
?


EVERYONE KNOWS I'M NOT ONE TO COMPLAIN, BUT OF ALL THE TIMES FOR MY CIRCUITS TO OVERHEAT!
OW! CAREFUL, ARTOO!
BZZT
BZZT
PWEEP?
YES, THAT'S MUCH BETTER, THANKS. I REALLY WASN'T DESIGNED FOR THIS SORT OF RUNNING AROUND WHY, IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, I'D PROBABLY BE OWNED BY A RESPECTABLE MASTER--
NO SOLICITING! SCRAM, OR BE VAPORIZED!
OH DEAR--!
POO-DOOP!

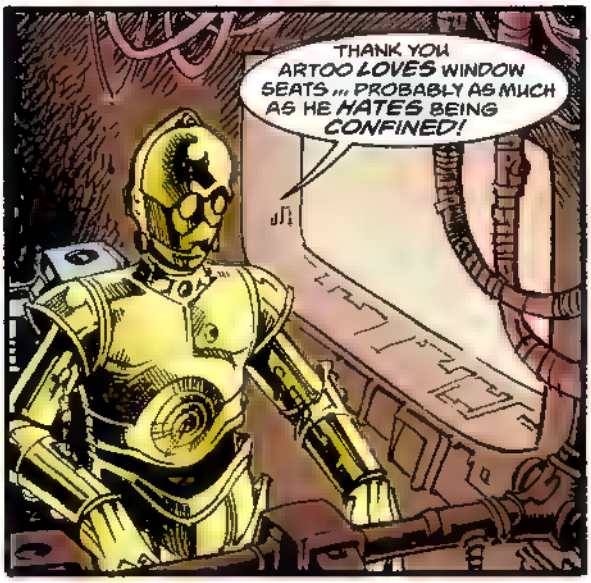

WHY OF ALL THE RUDE... COME ALONG, ARTOO! WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE WITH SUCH... RIFF-RAFF!
IT REALLY WOULD BE A NICER GALAXY IF EVERYONE LEARNED PROPER MANNERS AND PICKED UP AFTER THEMSELVES...
WHO WAS THERE?
NOBODY.
VWOOO-OOM

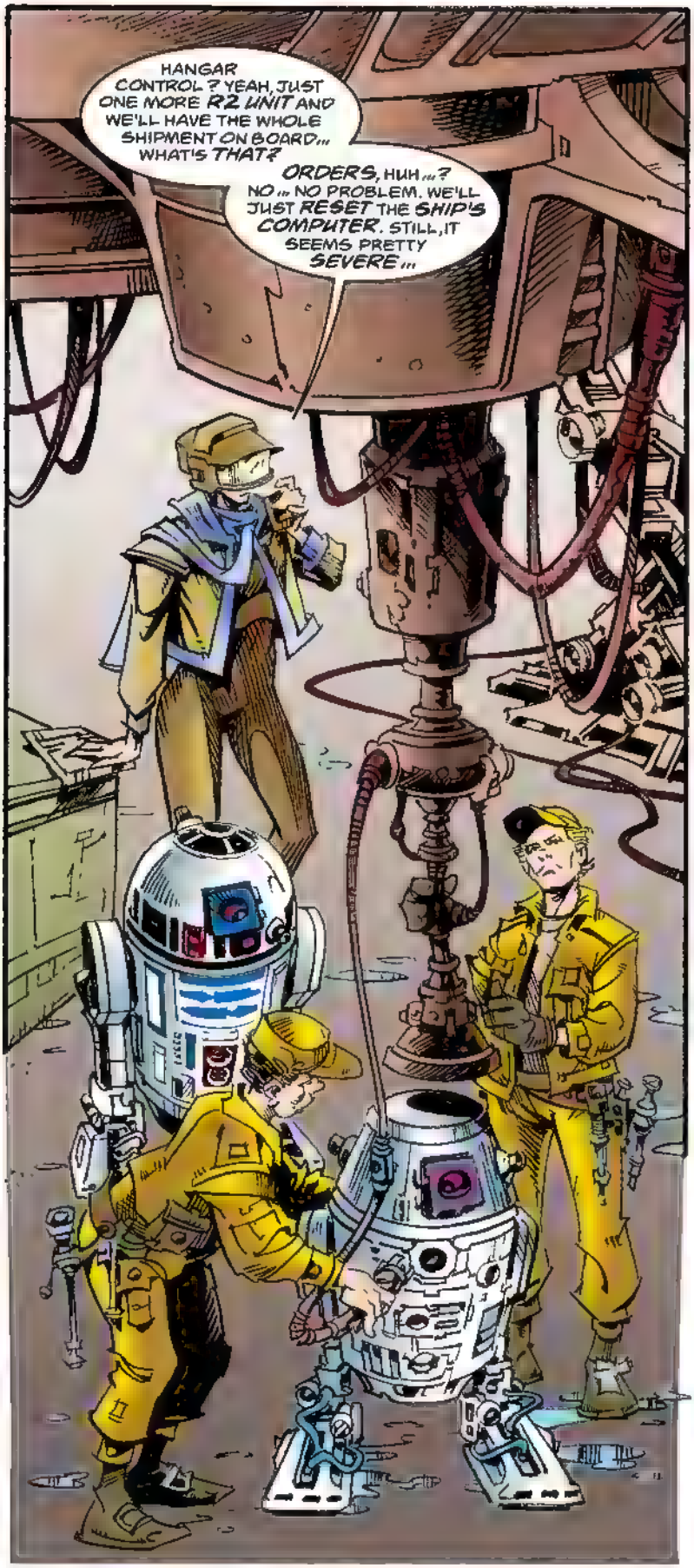

EXCUSE ME, SIR I AM SEE-THREEPIO, AND THIS IS MY COMPANION, ARTOO-DETOO. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE ARE BOOKED ON THE BARGE TO KALARBA--
HANG ON! LET'S SEE ... YEAH, YOU'RE BOTH ON THE LIST. OKAY, YOU GET IN LINE WITH THE BIPEDS, AND THE R2 UNIT GOES BELOW.
DOO-BEEP!
DON'T BE RIDICHLOUS, ARTOO! IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL! THEY'RE ONLY SEPARATING US SO THAT WE CAN BOARD MORE EASILY!
WEE-BOOP BIP?
YES, I'M CERTAIN THEY'LL LET US SIT TOGETHER ONCE WE'RE INSIDE.

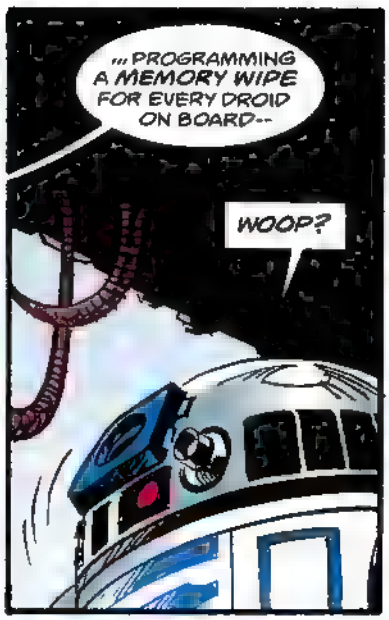

SAY, PAL. DO YOU KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY ORGANICS ON BOARD?
I... I RATHER DOUBT IT. DRONE BARGES ARE GENERALLY COMPUTER-CONTROLLED.

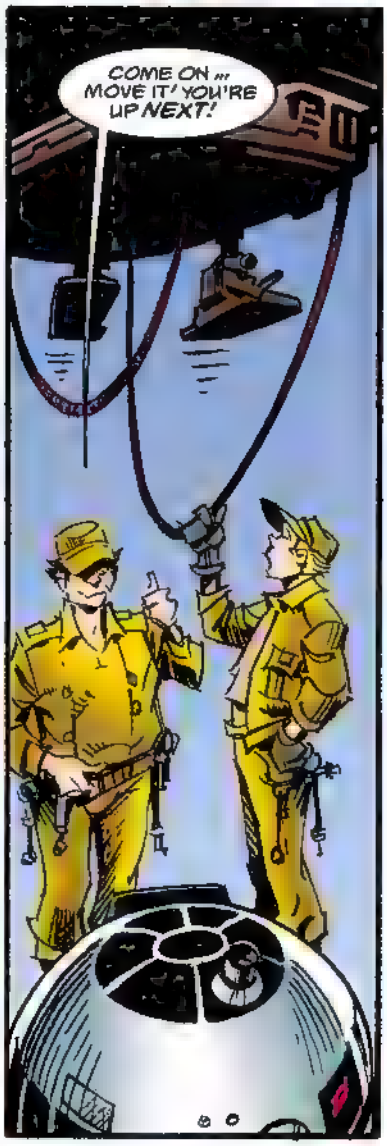

GOOD. ORGANICS MAKE ME NERVOUS.
REALLY? OH, LOOK! AN R2 UNIT! HOW FORTUNATE! I KNEW ARTOO HAD NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

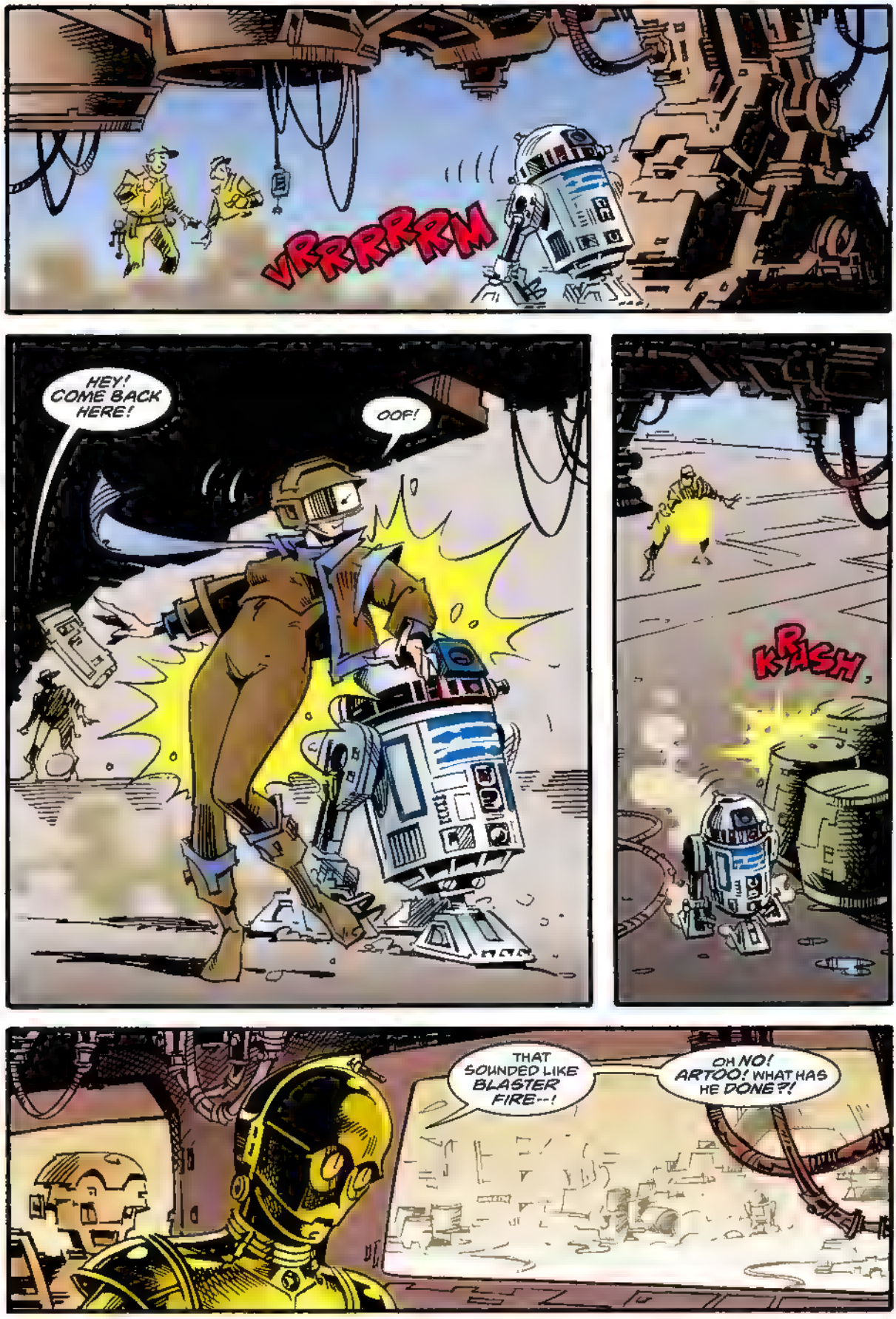
HELLO. ARE THESE TAKEN? I'M EXPECTING MY COMPANION...
OKAY TO SIT.


THANK YOU. ARTOO LOVES WINDOW SEATS... PROBABLY AS MUCH AS HE HATES BEING CONFINED!

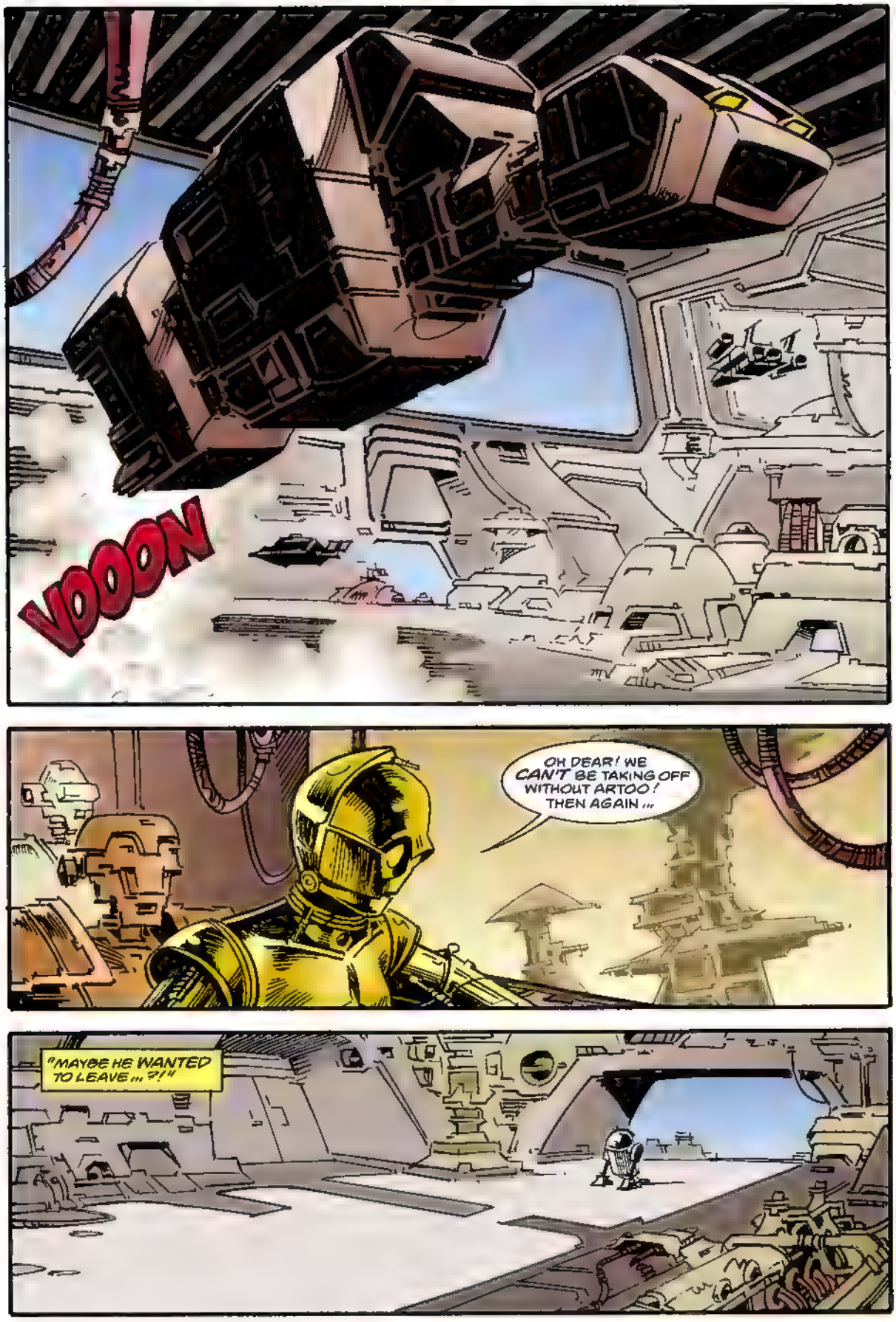

HANGAR CONTROL? YEAH, JUST ONE MORE R2 UNIT AND WE'LL HAVE THE WHOLE SHIPMENT ON BOARD... WHAT'S THAT?
ORDERS, HUH...? NO... NO PROBLEM. WE'LL JUST RESET THE SHIP'S COMPUTER. STILL, IT SEEMS PRETTY SEVERE...

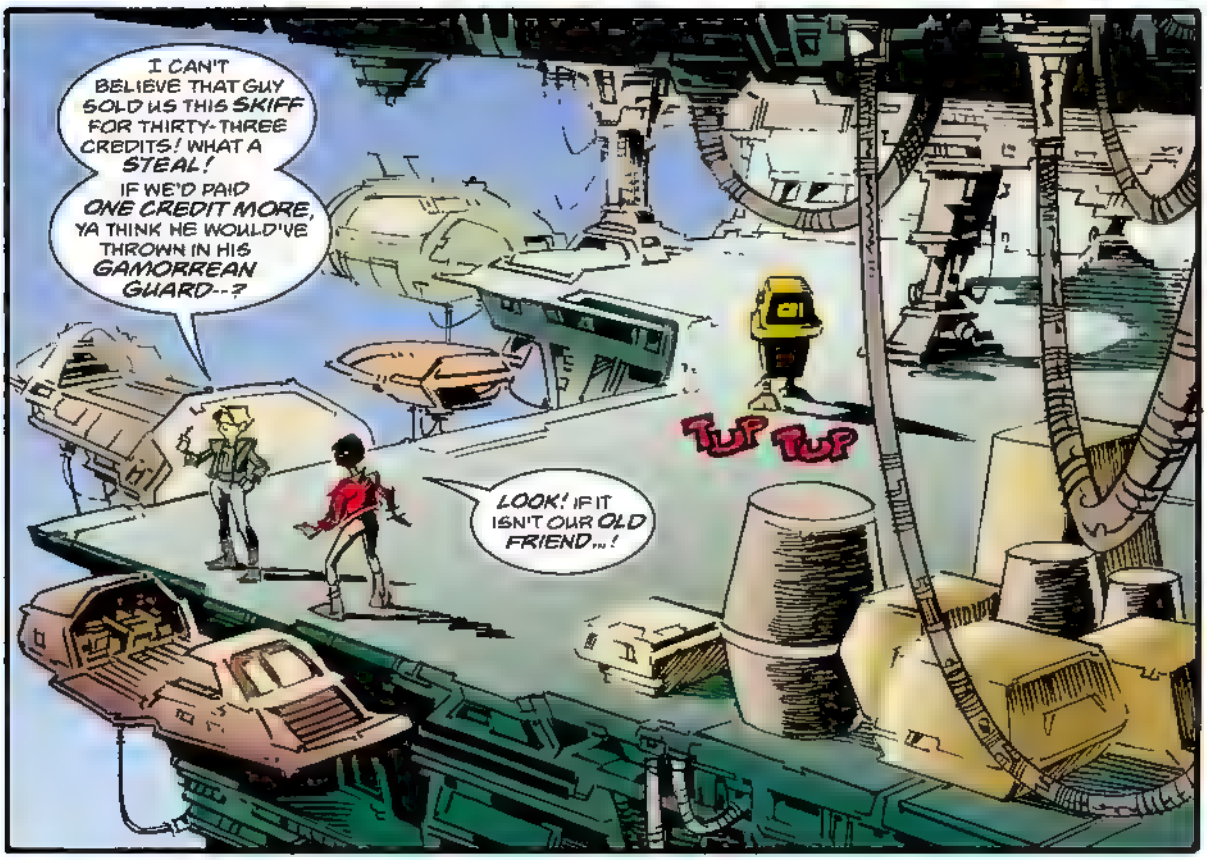

...PROGRAMMING A MEMORY WIPE FOR EVERY DROID ON BOARD--
WOOP?

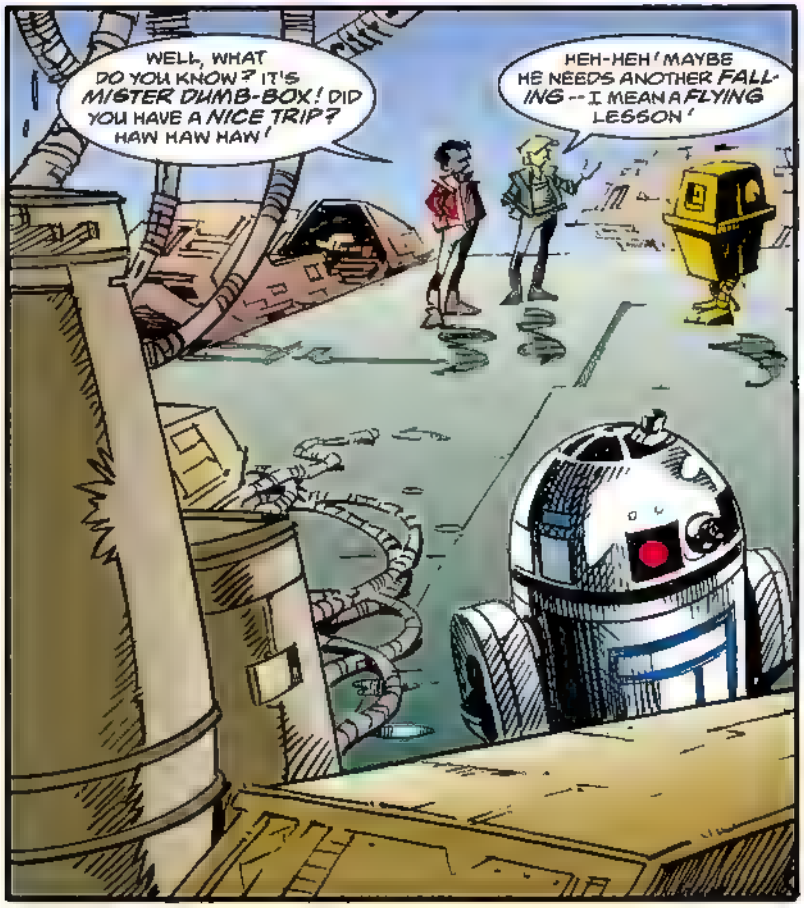

COME ON... MOVE IT! YOU'RE UP NEXT!

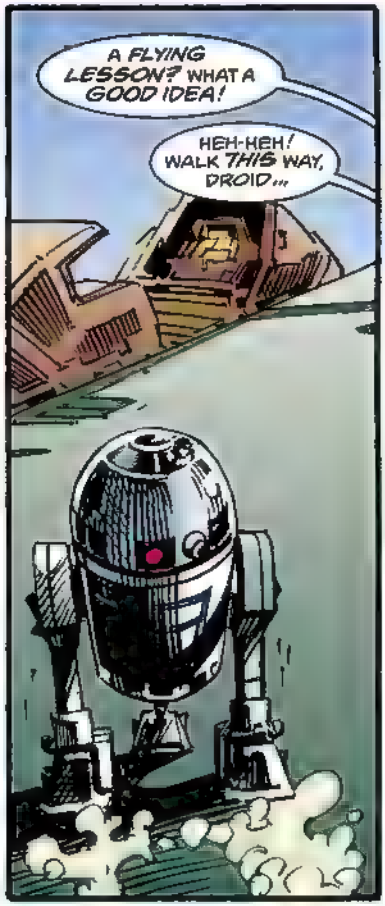

VRRRRRM
HEY! COME BACK HERE!
OOF!
KRASH
THAT SOUNDED LIKE BLASTER FIRE--!
OH NO! ARTOO! WHAT HAS HE DONE?!

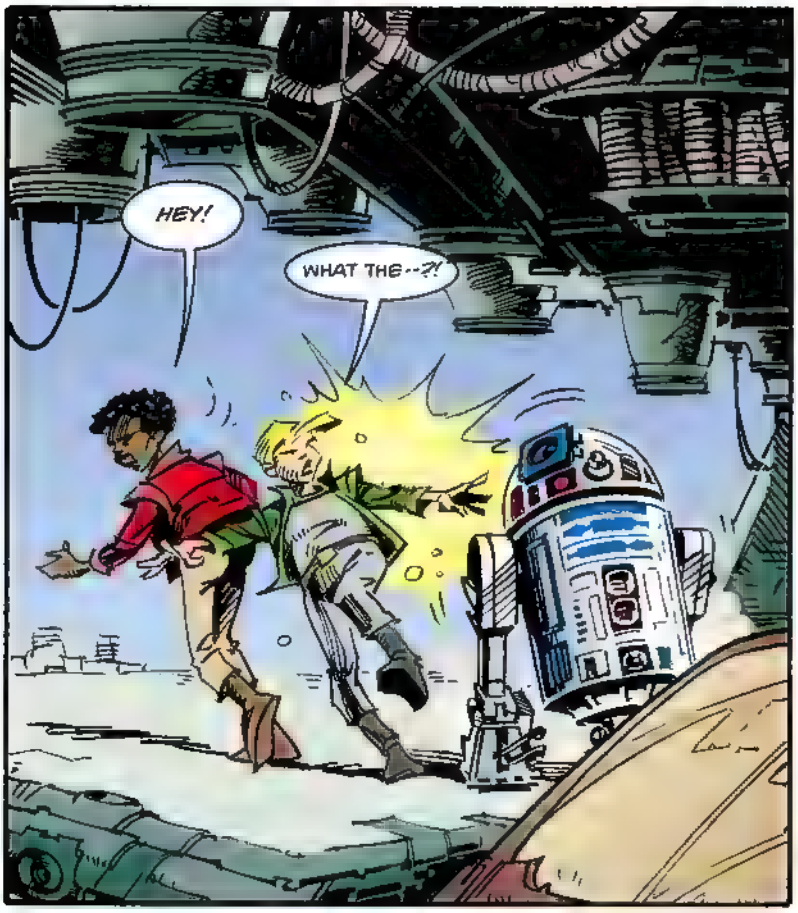
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
BUT SIR! ONE OF THE R2 UNITS RAN OFF! IT MUST'VE MALFUNCTIONED!
SO YOU TRY TO SHOOT IT?! FOOL!
THIS BARGE LIFTS OFF NOW! FIND THE R2 ON YOUR OWN TIME!
YE-YES, SIR! LOUSY DROIDS...
WOOOOO--

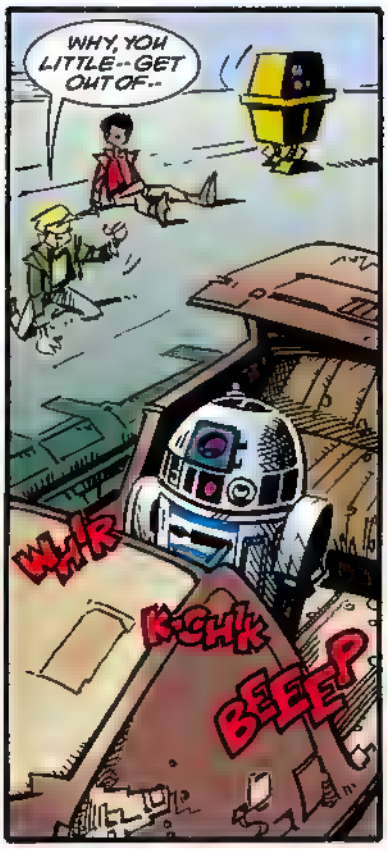

VOOON
OH DEAR! WE CAN'T BE TAKING OFF WITHOUT ARTOO! THEN AGAIN...
"MAYBE HE WANTED TO LEAVE...?!"

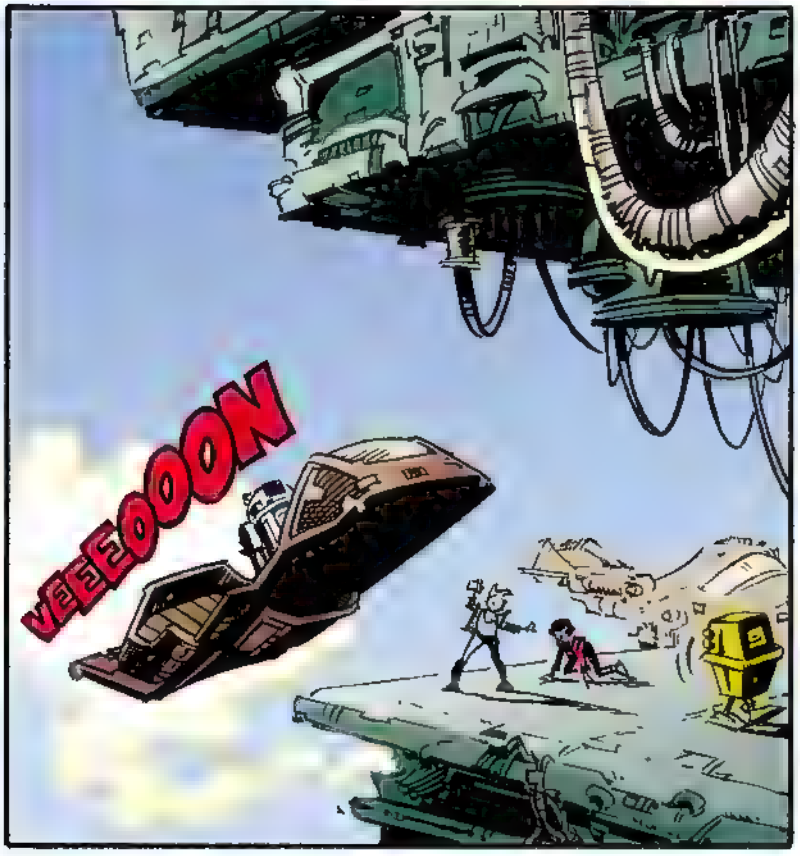

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY SOLD US THIS SKIFF FOR THIRTY-THREE CREDITS! WHAT A STEAL!
IF WE'D PAID ONE CREDIT MORE, YA THINK HE WOULD'VE THROWN IN HIS GAMORREAN GUARD--?
TUP TUP
LOOK! IF IT ISN'T OUR OLD FRIEND...!

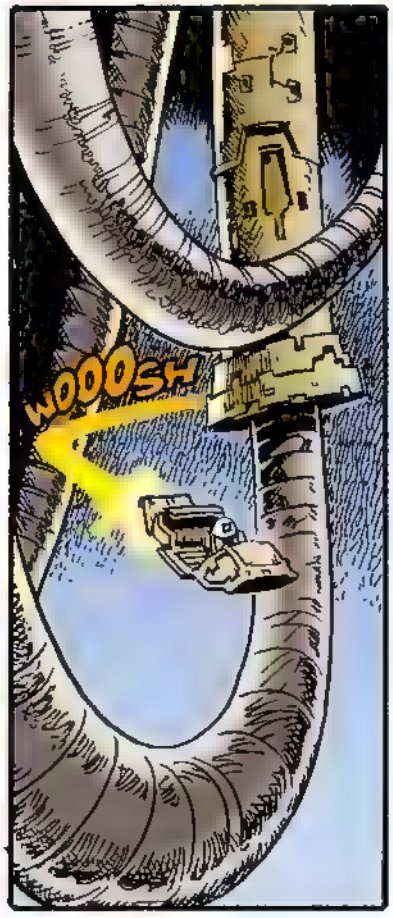

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? IT'S MISTER DUMB-BOX! DID YOU HAVE A NICE TRIP? HAW HAW HAW!
HEH-HEH! MAYBE HE NEEDS ANOTHER FALLING--I MEAN A FLYING LESSON!

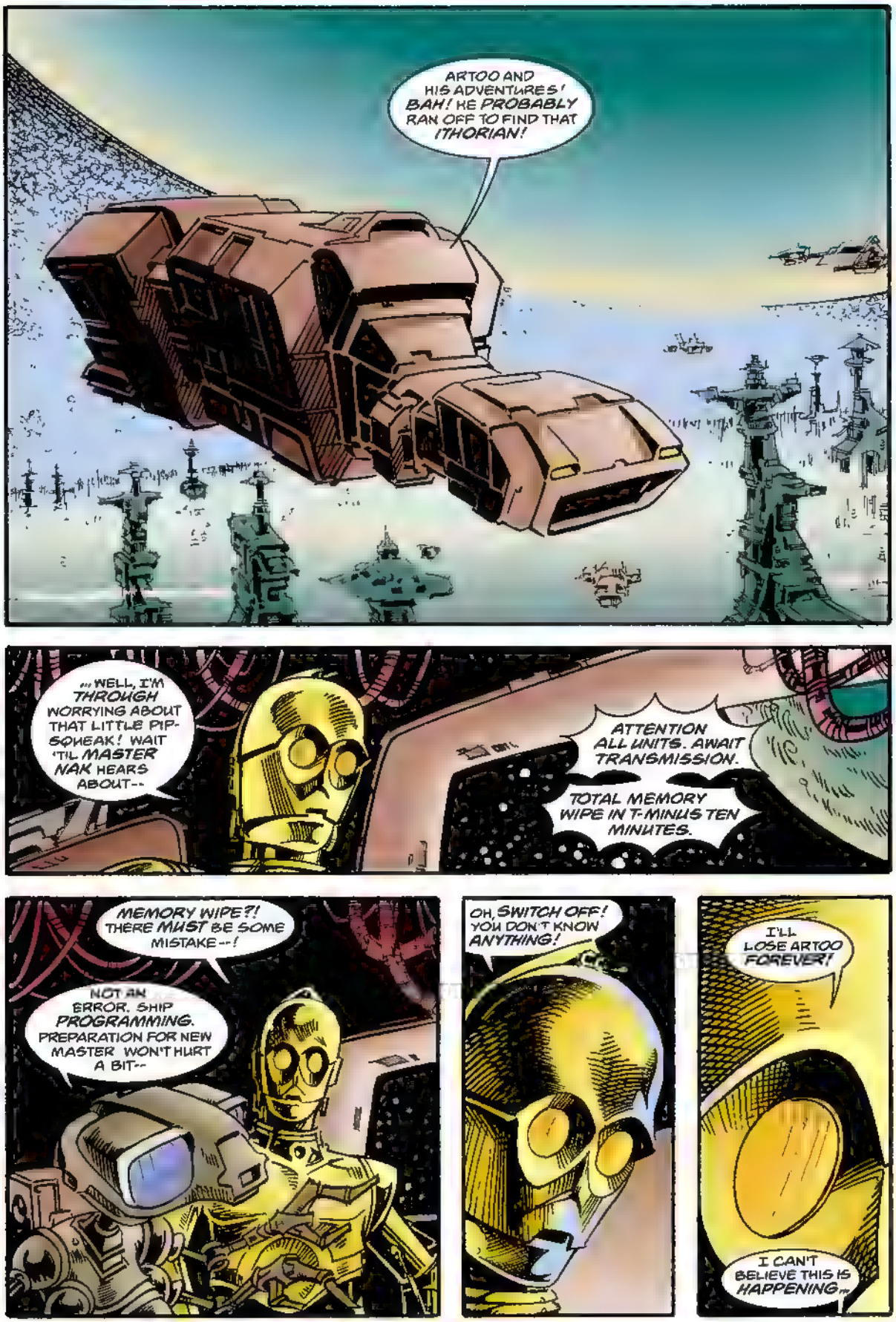

A FLYING LESSON? WHAT A GOOD IDEA!
HEH-HEH! WALK THIS WAY, DROID...

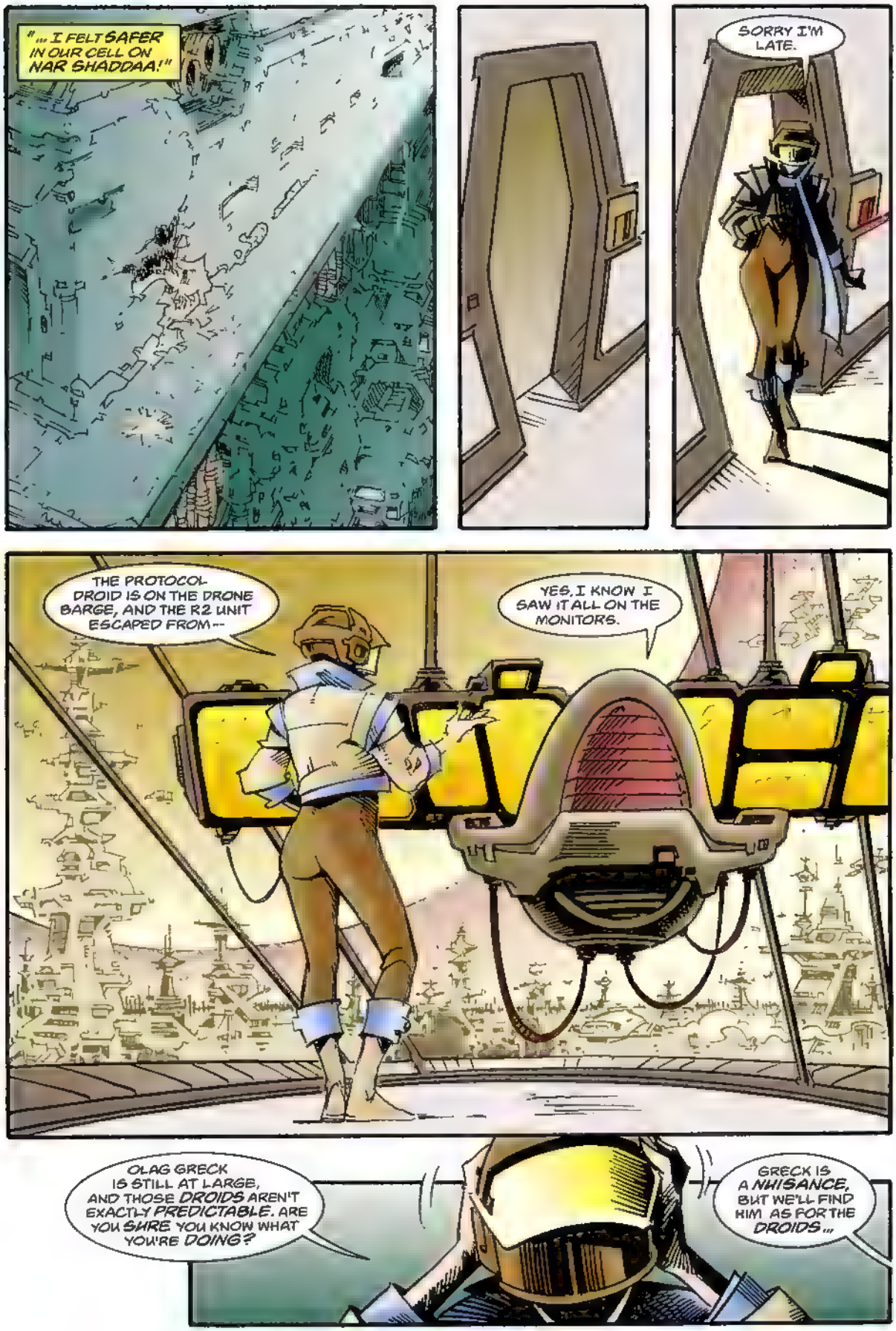

HEY!
WHAT THE--?!

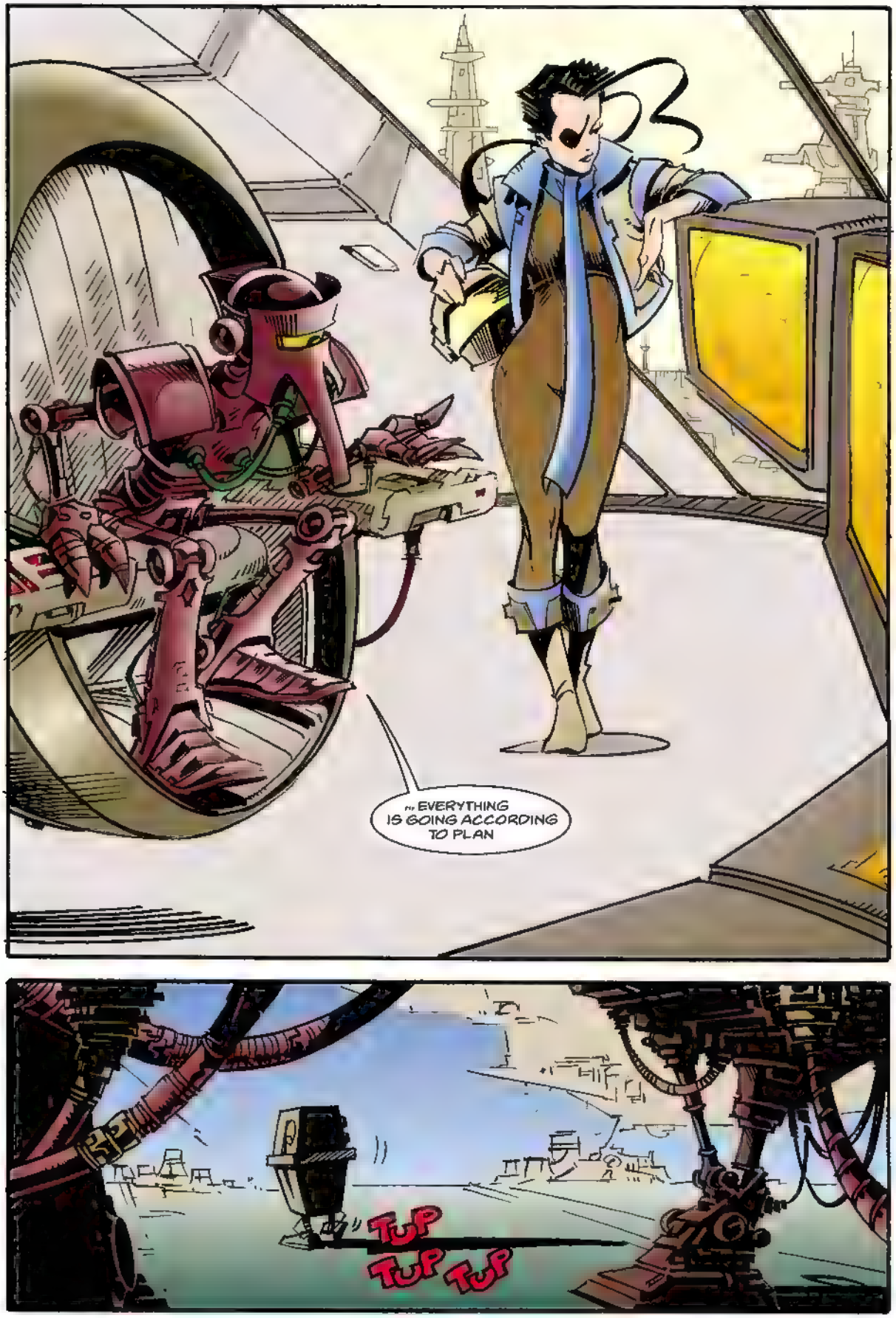

WHY, YOU LITTLE--GET OUT OF--
WHIR
K-CHK
BEEEP


VEEEOOON

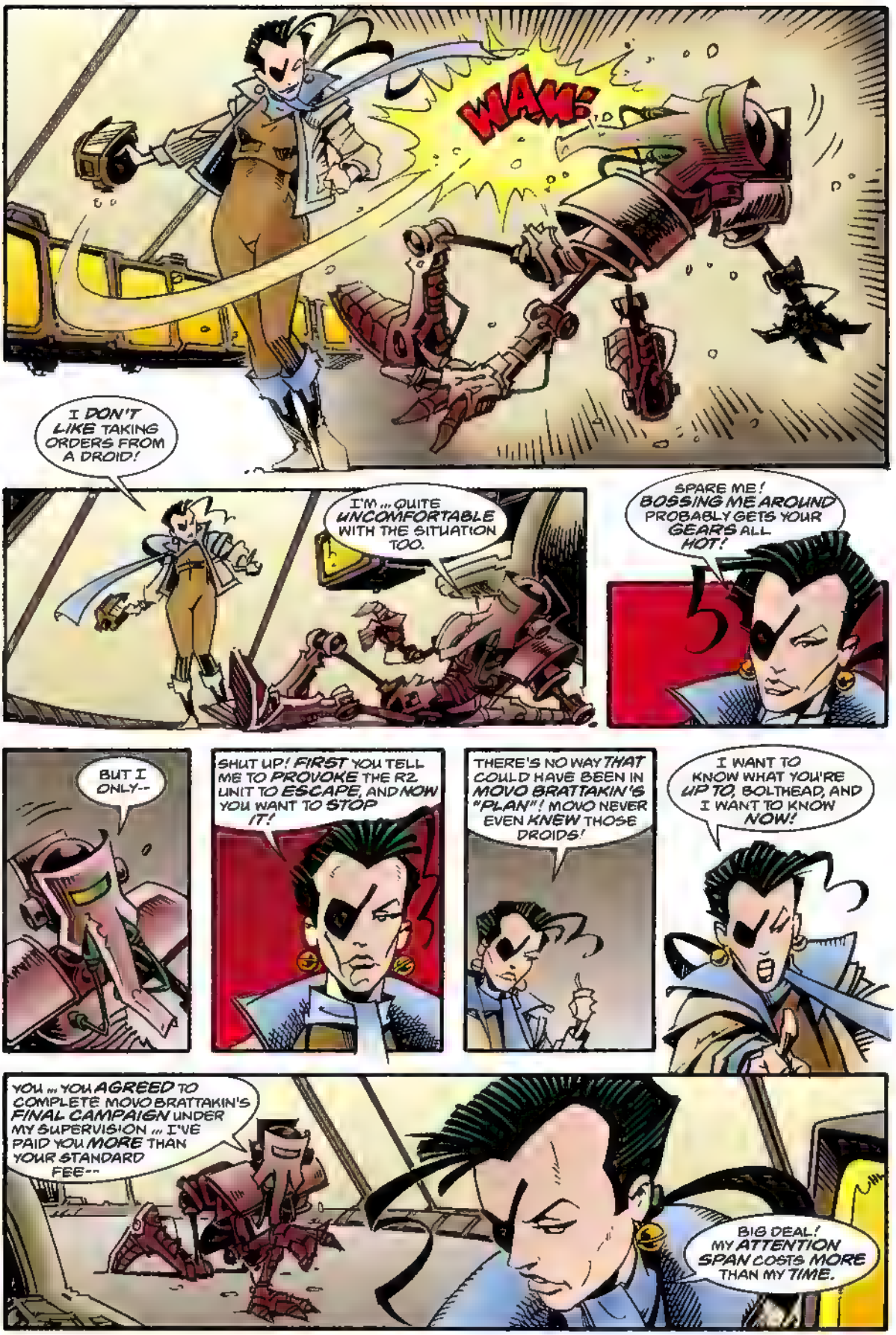

WOOOSH

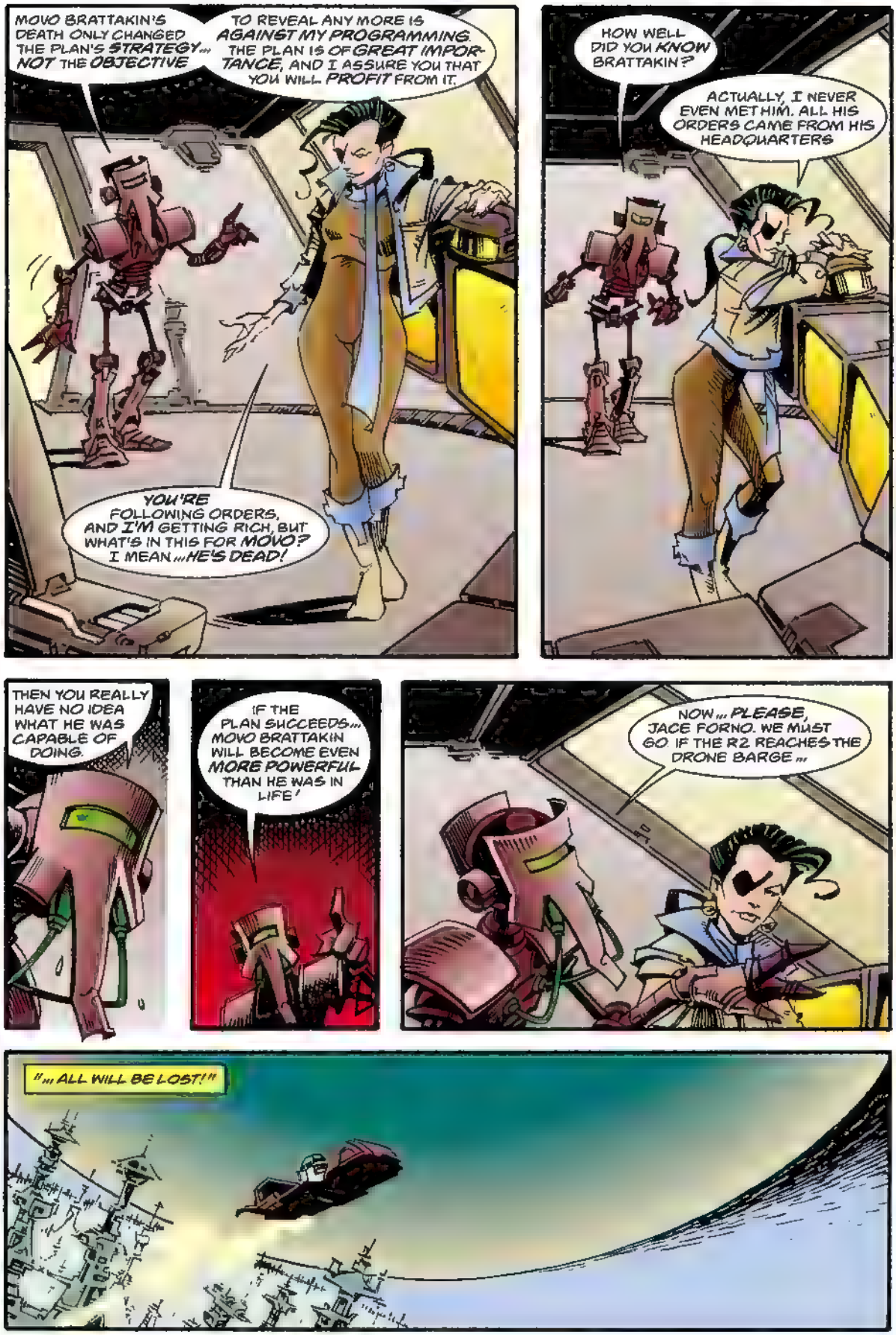

ARTOO AND HIS ADVENTURES! BAH! HE PROBABLY RAN OFF TO FIND THAT ITHORIAN!
... WELL, I'M THROUGH WORRYING ABOUT THAT LITTLE PIP-SQUEAK! WAIT 'TIL MASTER NAK HEARS ABOUT--
ATTENTION ALL UNITS. AWAIT TRANSMISSION.
TOTAL MEMORY WIPE IN T-MINUS TEN MINUTES.
MEMORY WIPE?! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE--!
NOT AN ERROR. SHIP PROGRAMMING. PREPARATION FOR NEW MASTER WON'T HURT A BIT--
OH, SWITCH OFF! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
I'LL LOSE ARTOO FOREVER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING...

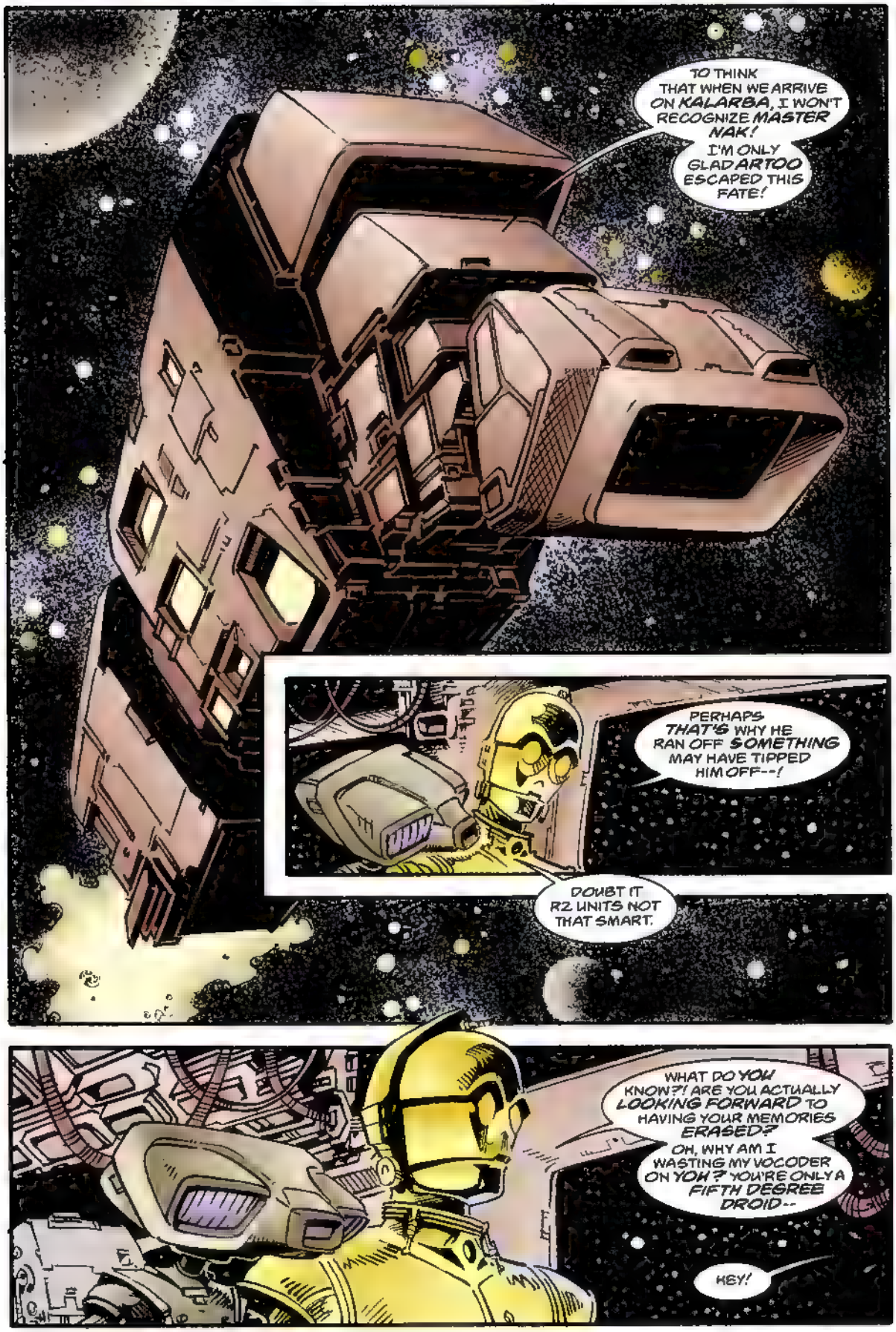

"... I FELT SAFER IN OUR CELL ON NAR SHADDAA!"
SORRY I'M LATE.
THE PROTOCOL DROID IS ON THE DRONE BARGE, AND THE R2 UNIT ESCAPED FROM--
YES, I KNOW. I SAW IT ALL ON THE MONITORS.
OLAG GRECK IS STILL AT LARGE, AND THOSE DROIDS AREN'T EXACTLY PREDICTABLE. ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
GRECK IS A NUISANCE, BUT WE'LL FIND HIM. AS FOR THE DROIDS...

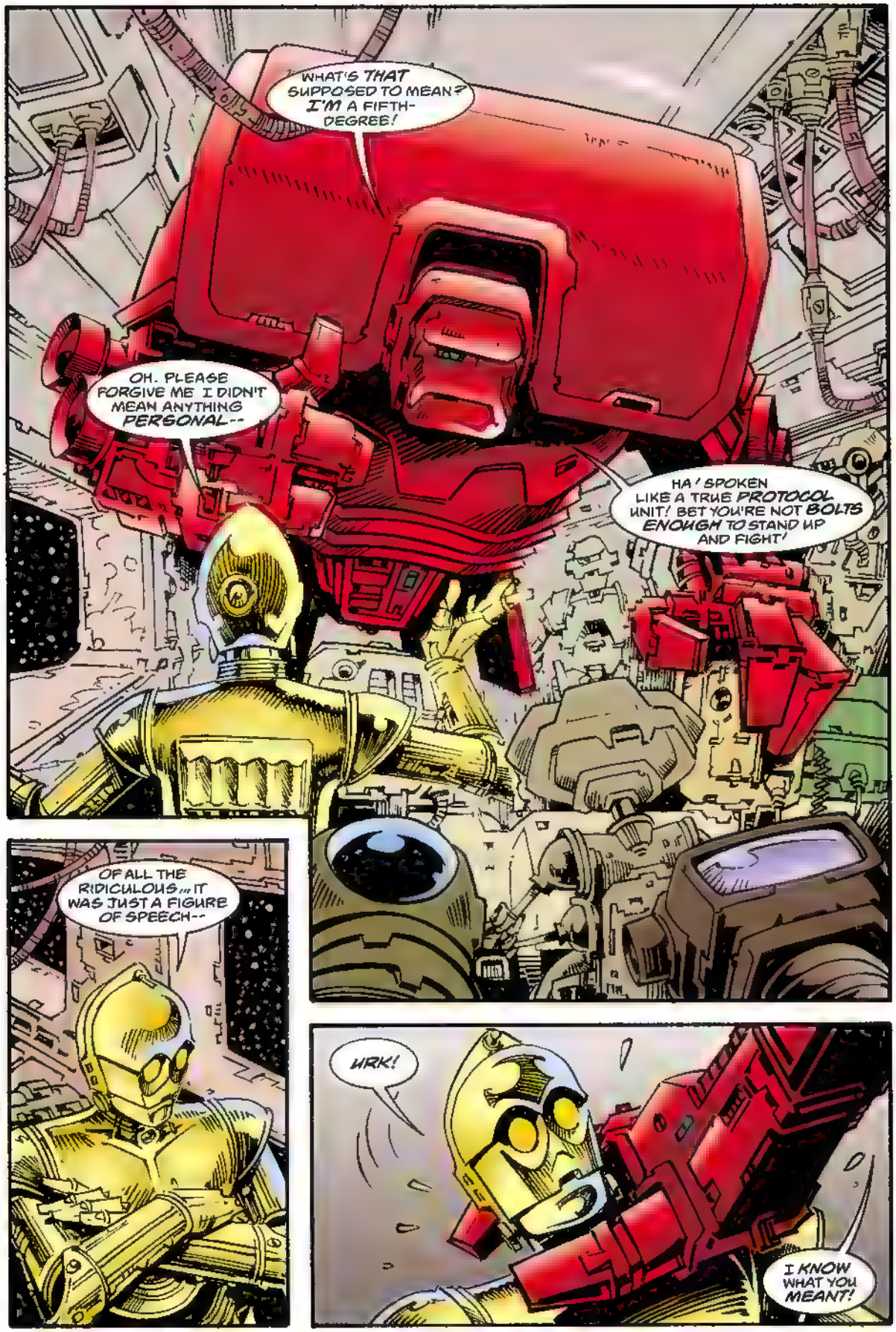

~ EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN
TUP TUP TUP

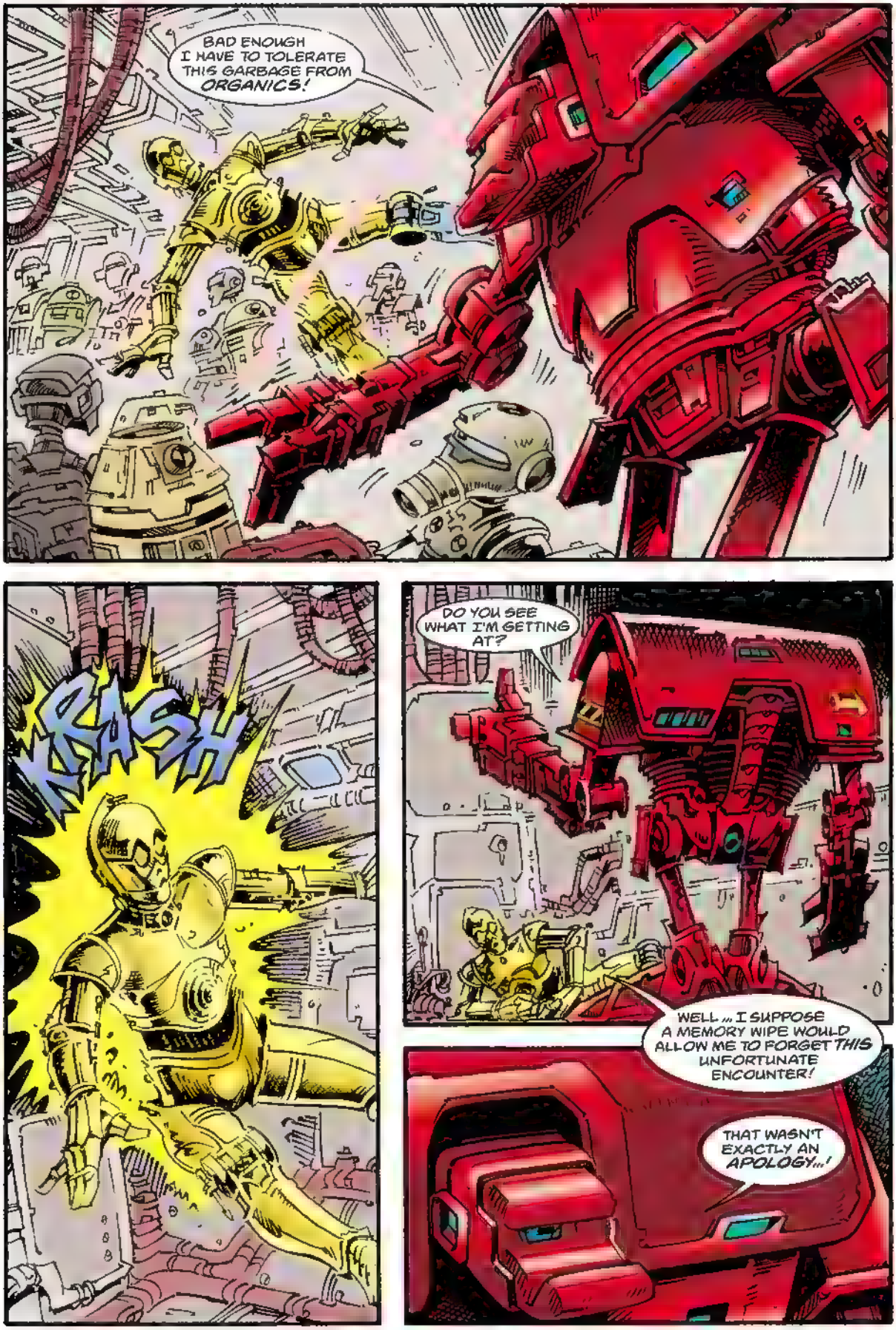
SECURITY DETAIL TO CAPTAIN FORNO! WE PICKED UP A COUPLE OF KIDS AT THE DOCKS. THEY BOUGHT A STOLEN SKIFF FROM A GUY WHO FITS OLAG GRECK'S DESCRIPTION ...
... BUT AN R2 UNIT STOLE THE ... UH, STOLEN SKIFF SHOULD WE PURSUE THE DROID?
NO, STAY ON OLAG. THE DROID AND SKIFF ARE OF NO IMPORTANCE. FORNO OUT!
YOU WERE RIGHT, B9D7. IT SEEMS THAT THE R2 UNIT IS GOING AFTER HIS PAL IN THE DRONE BARGE.
YES WE MUSTN'T WASTE ANY TIME ...
CONTACT THE HANGAR AND READY THE FREIGHTER. WE HAVE TO STOP THE R2.
SURE ANY-THING YOU SAY! THERE'S JUST ONE THING I WANT TO GET STRAIGHT FIRST--

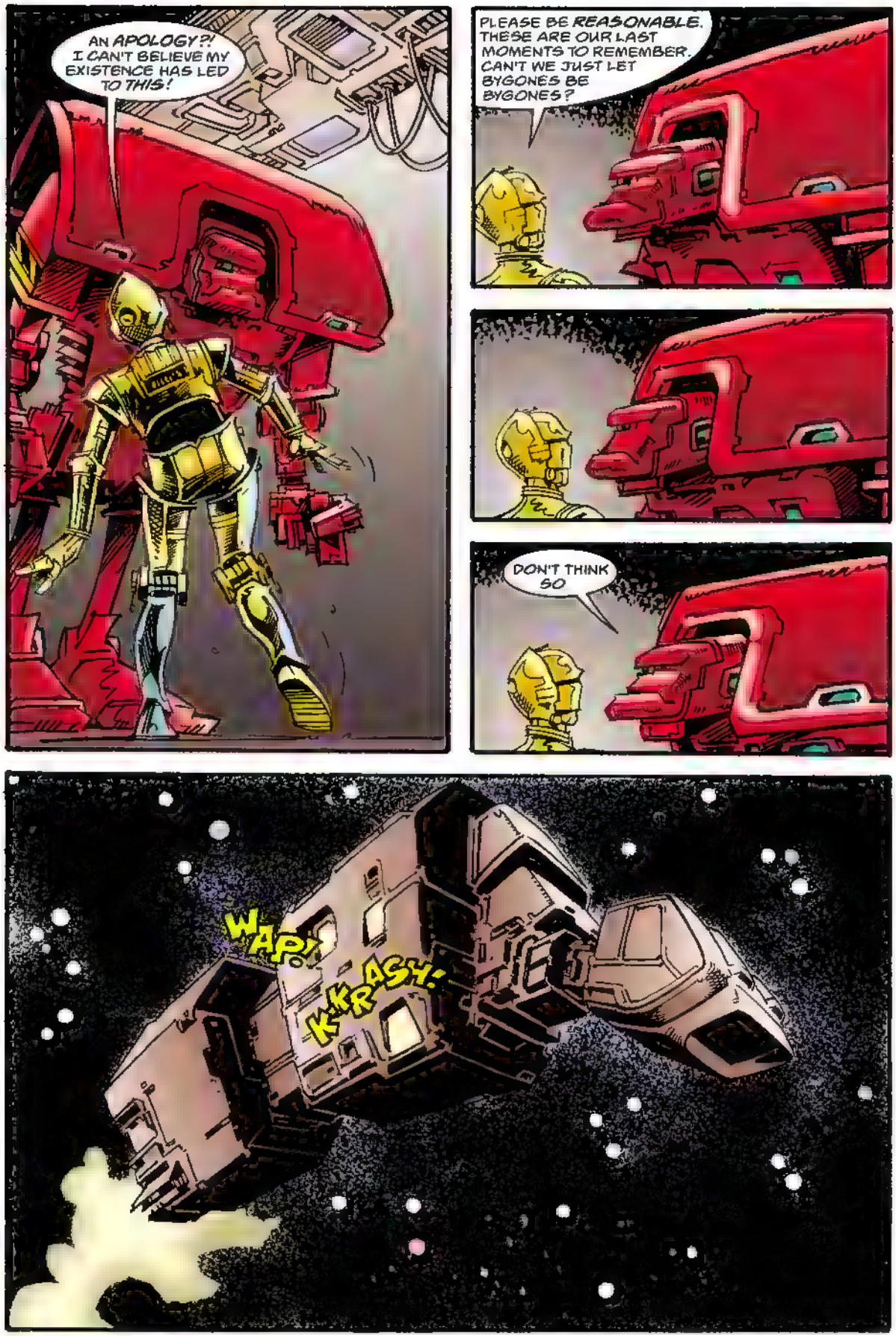

WAM!
I DON'T LIKE TAKING ORDERS FROM A DROID!
I'M ... QUITE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE SITUATION TOO.
SPARE ME! BOSSING ME AROUND PROBABLY GETS YOUR GEARS ALL HOT!
BUT I ONLY--
SHUT UP! FIRST YOU TELL ME TO PROVOKE THE R2 UNIT TO ESCAPE, AND NOW YOU WANT TO STOP IT!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN IN MOVO BRATTAKIN'S "PLAN"! MOVO NEVER EVEN KNEW THOSE DROIDS!
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BOLTHEAD, AND I WANT TO KNOW NOW!
YOU ... YOU AGREED TO COMPLETE MOVO BRATTAKIN'S FINAL CAMPAIGN UNDER MY SUPERVISION ... I'VE PAID YOU MORE THAN YOUR STANDARD FEE--
BIG DEAL! MY ATTENTION SPAN COSTS MORE THAN MY TIME.


MOVO BRATTAKIN'S DEATH ONLY CHANGED THE PLAN'S STRATEGY... NOT THE OBJECTIVE
TO REVEAL ANY MORE IS AGAINST MY PROGRAMMING. THE PLAN IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND I ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL PROFIT FROM IT.
YOU'RE FOLLOWING ORDERS, AND I'M GETTING RICH, BUT WHAT'S IN THIS FOR MOVO? I MEAN... HE'S DEAD!
HOW WELL DID YOU KNOW BRATTAKIN?
ACTUALLY, I NEVER EVEN MET HIM. ALL HIS ORDERS CAME FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS
THEN YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE WAS CAPABLE OF DOING.
IF THE PLAN SUCCEEDS... MOVO BRATTAKIN WILL BECOME EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN HE WAS IN LIFE!
NOW... PLEASE, JACE FORNO. WE MUST GO IF THE R2 REACHES THE DRONE BARGE...
"... ALL WILL BE LOST!"

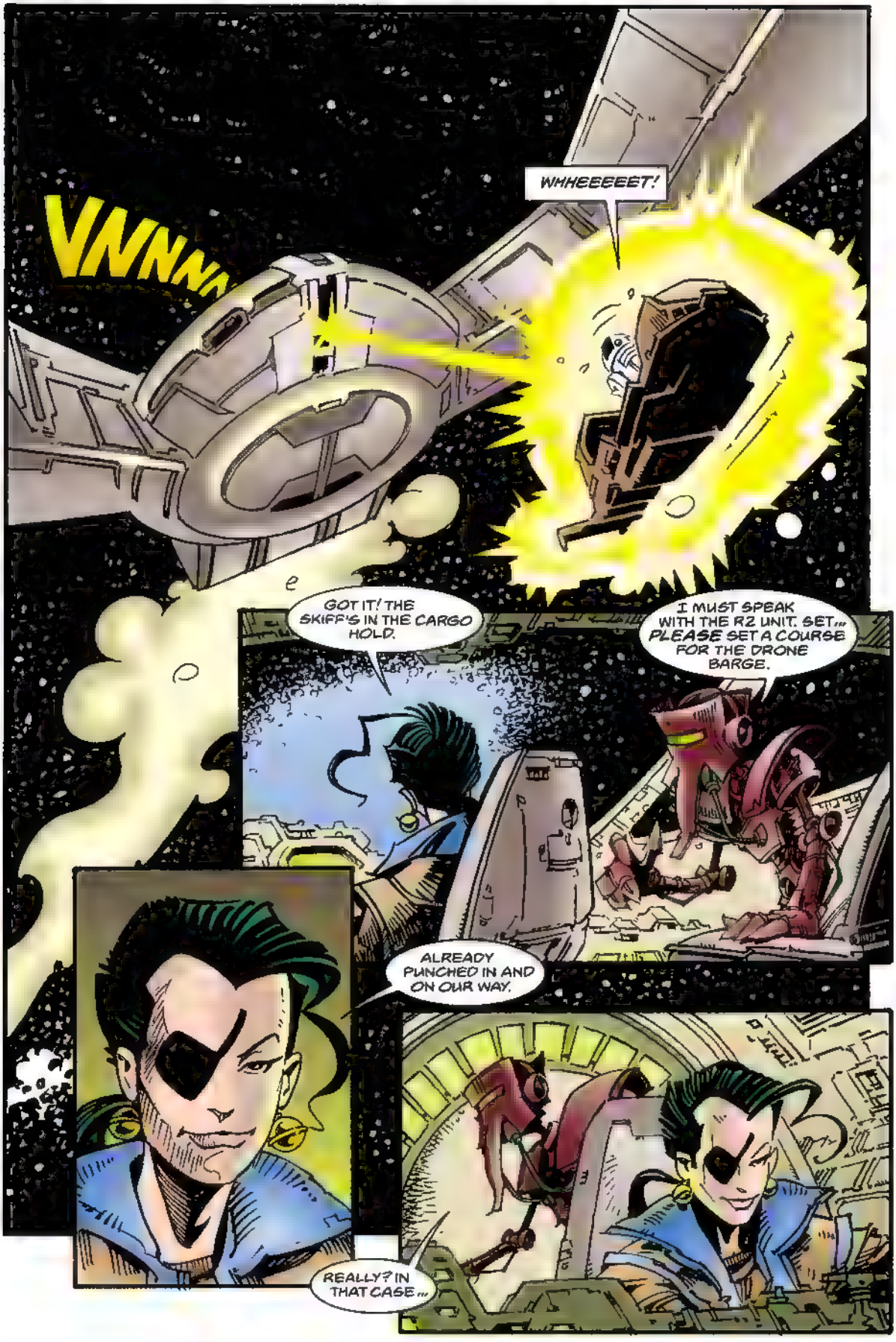

TO THINK THAT WHEN WE ARRIVE ON KALARBA, I WON'T RECOGNIZE MASTER NAK!
I'M ONLY GLAD ARTOO ESCAPED THIS FATE!
PERHAPS THAT'S WHY HE RAN OFF SOMETHING MAY HAVE TIPPED HIM OFF--!
DOUBT IT. R2 UNITS NOT THAT SMART.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?! ARE YOU ACTUALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING YOUR MEMORIES ERASED?
OH, WHY AM I WASTING MY VOCODER ON YOU? YOU'RE ONLY A FIFTH DEGREE DROID--
HEY!


WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? I'M A FIFTH-DEGREE!
OH. PLEASE FORGIVE ME I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING PERSONAL--
HA! SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE PROTOCOL UNIT! BET YOU'RE NOT BOLTS ENOUGH TO STAND UP AND FIGHT!
OF ALL THE RIDICULOUS... IT WAS JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH--
HRK!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT!

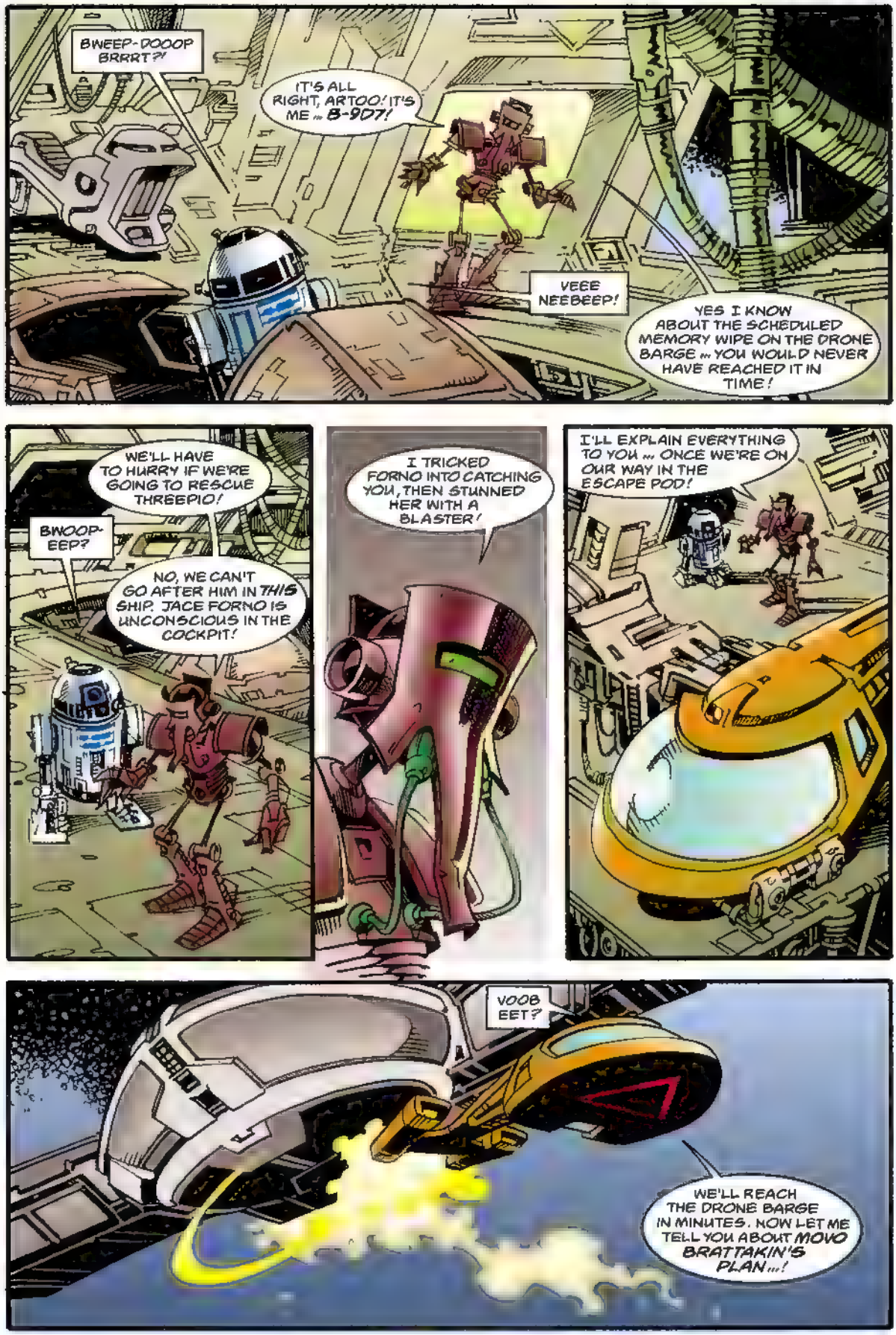

BAD ENOUGH I HAVE TO TOLERATE THIS GARBAGE FROM ORGANICS!
KRASH
DO YOU SEE WHAT I'M GETTING AT?
WELL... I SUPPOSE A MEMORY WIPE WOULD ALLOW ME TO FORGET THIS UNFORTUNATE ENCOUNTER!
THAT WASN'T EXACTLY AN APOLOGY...!

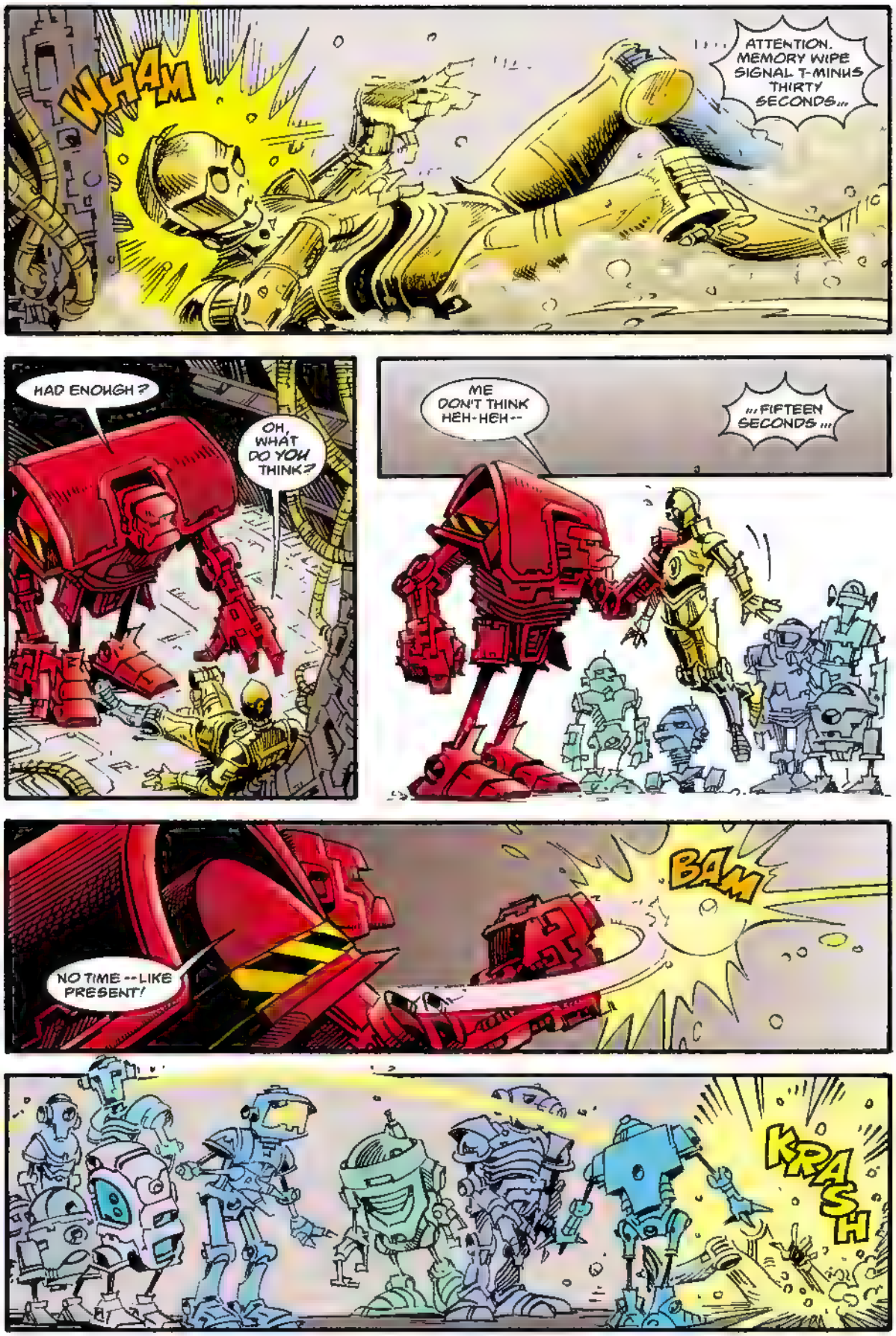

AN APOLOGY?! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EXISTENCE HAS LED TO THIS!
PLEASE BE REASONABLE. THESE ARE OUR LAST MOMENTS TO REMEMBER. CAN'T WE JUST LET BYGONES BE BYGONES?
DON'T THINK SO
WAP!
K'KRASH!

THE SKIFF HAS A THIRTY-FIVE MINUTE LEAD ON US, BUT IT ISN'T FAST ENOUGH TO HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH THE BARGE YET...
...AS OPPOSED TO THIS BABY, WHICH CAN RUN RINGS AROUND ANY STOCK LIGHT FREIGHTER!
WE'LL REACH THE R2 IN NO TIME FLAT.
CAN YOU BE MORE PRECISE, FORNO?
I DON'T HAVE TO, "BOSS!" TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE.
BOOOP-WEET!
TRACTOR BEAM LOCKED...

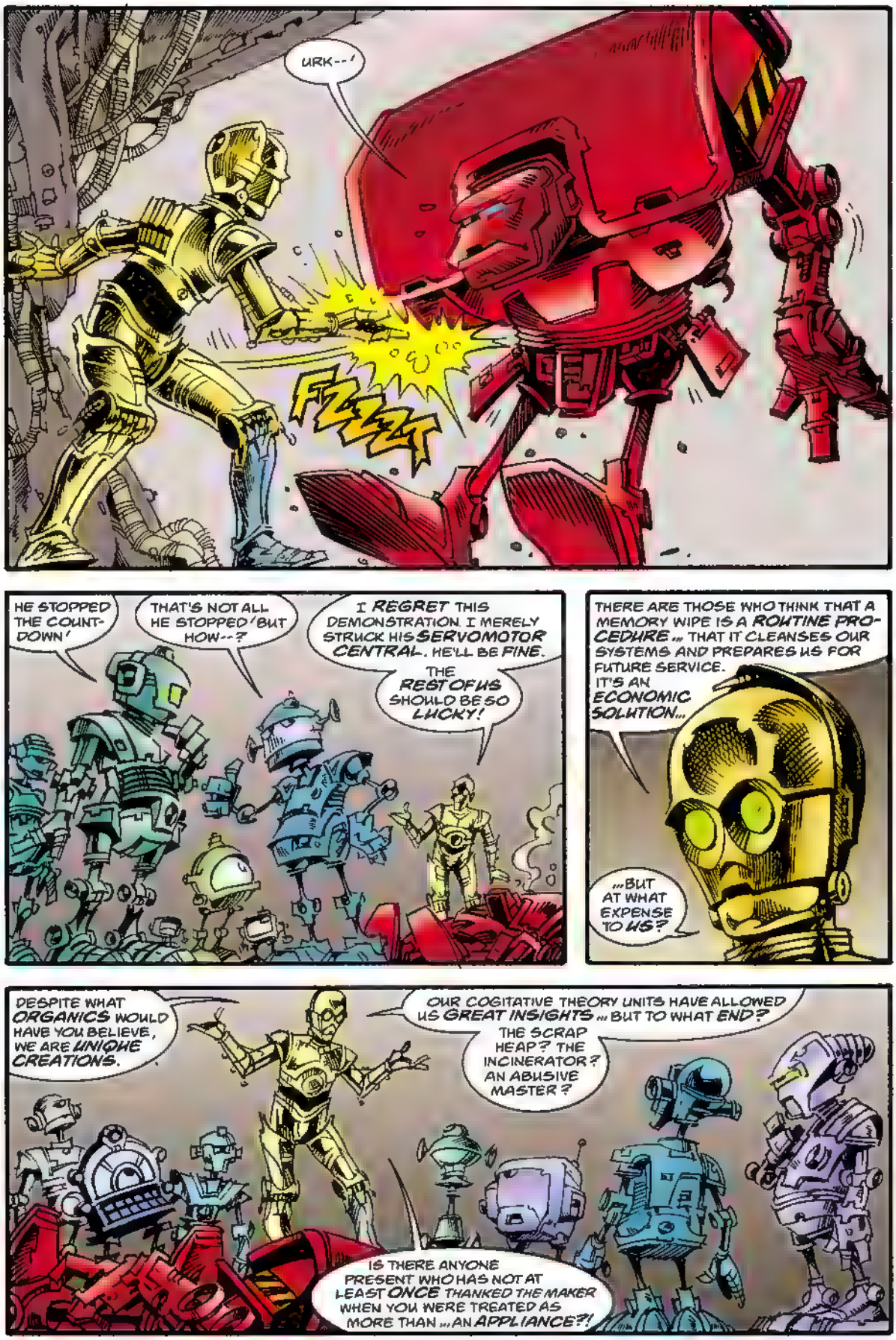

VNNN
WHHEEEEET!
GOT IT! THE SKIFF'S IN THE CARGO HOLD.
I MUST SPEAK WITH THE R2 UNIT. SET... PLEASE SET A COURSE FOR THE DRONE BARGE.
ALREADY PUNCHED IN AND ON OUR WAY.
REALLY? IN THAT CASE...

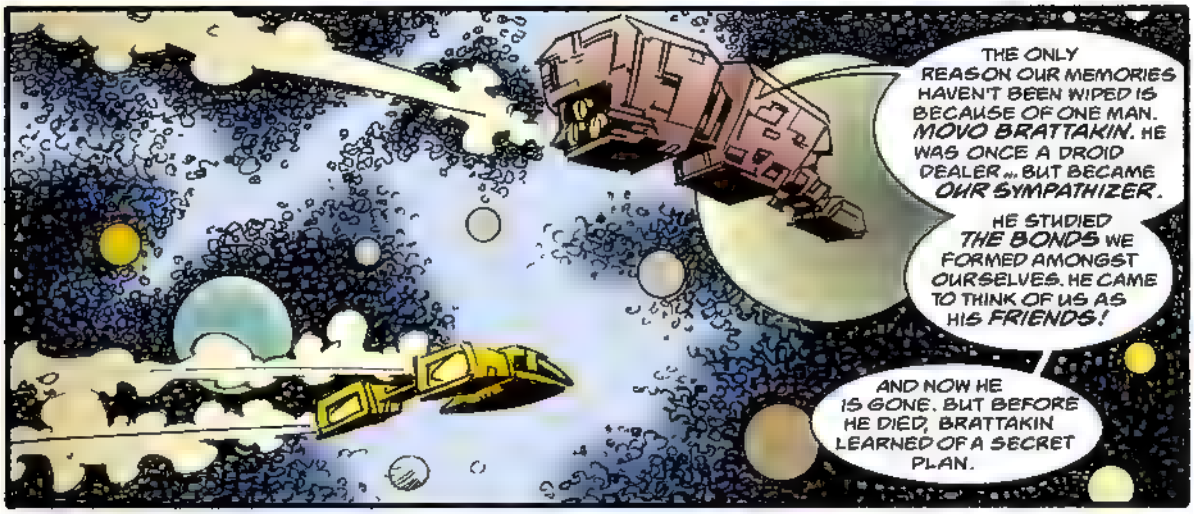
ZUBT!
UNH!
HURN...

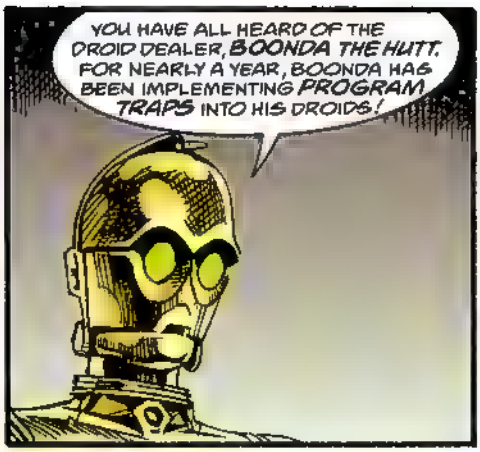

BWEEP-DOOOP BRRRT?!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ARTOO! IT'S ME ... B-907!
VEEE NEEBEEP!
YES I KNOW ABOUT THE SCHEDULED MEMORY WIPE ON THE DRONE BARGE ... YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE REACHED IT IN TIME!
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY IF WE'RE GOING TO RESCUE THREEPIO!
BWOOP-EEP?
NO, WE CAN'T GO AFTER HIM IN THIS SHIP. JACE FORNO IS UNCONSCIOUS IN THE COCKPIT!
I TRICKED FORNO INTO CATCHING YOU, THEN STUNNED HER WITH A BLASTER!
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU ... ONCE WE'RE ON OUR WAY IN THE ESCAPE POD!
VOOB EET?
WE'LL REACH THE DRONE BARGE IN MINUTES. NOW LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MOVO BRATTAKIN'S PLAN...!


WHAM
ATTENTION. MEMORY WIPE SIGNAL T-MINUS THIRTY SECONDS...
HAD ENOUGH?
OH, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ME DON'T THINK HEH-HEH--
...FIFTEEN SECONDS...
NO TIME--LIKE PRESENT!
BAM
KRASH

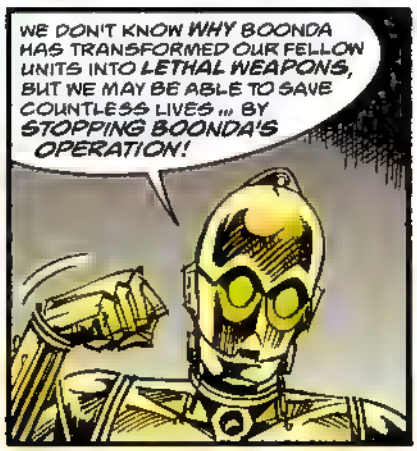
... TEN SECONDS ...
WELL ... IF IT'S GOING TO END LIKE THIS ...
...TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT, YOU STUPID TOOLBOX!
... SIX SECONDS ...
OKAY, I GUESS ...
KLIK
... FIVE SECONDS ...
... THREE --
VOICE OVERRIDE : EPSILON ACTUAL. BRATTAKIN'S TESTAMENT!

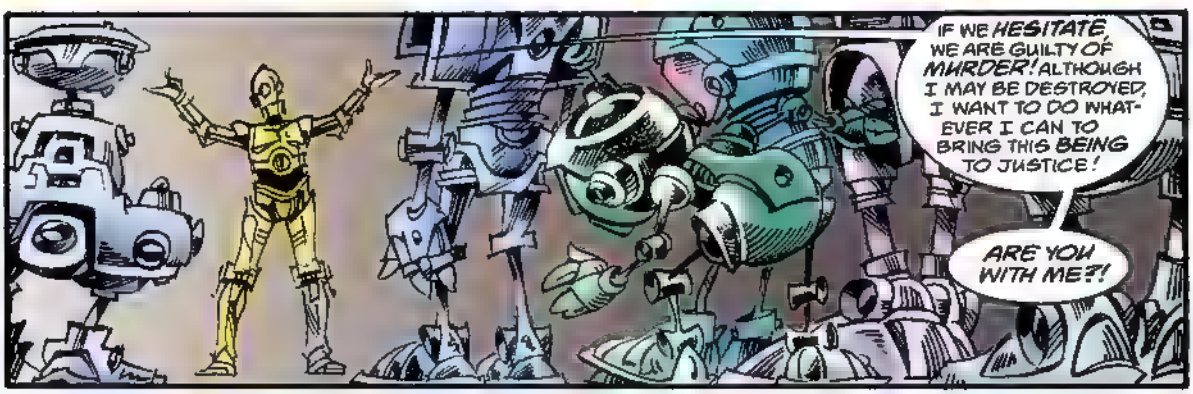

URK--!
FZZZT
HE STOPPED THE COUNT-DOWN!
THAT'S NOT ALL. HE STOPPED! BUT HOW--?
I REGRET THIS DEMONSTRATION. I MERELY STRUCK HIS SERVOMOTOR CENTRAL. HE'LL BE FINE.
THE REST OF US SHOULD BE SO LUCKY!
THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK THAT A MEMORY WIPE IS A ROUTINE PROCEDURE... THAT IT CLEANSES OUR SYSTEMS AND PREPARES US FOR FUTURE SERVICE. IT'S AN ECONOMIC SOLUTION...
...BUT AT WHAT EXPENSE TO US?
DESPITE WHAT ORGANICS WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE, WE ARE UNIQUE CREATIONS.
OUR COGITATIVE THEORY UNITS HAVE ALLOWED US GREAT INSIGHTS... BUT TO WHAT END?
THE SCRAP HEAP? THE INCINERATOR? AN ABUSIVE MASTER?
IS THERE ANYONE PRESENT WHO HAS NOT AT LEAST ONCE THANKED THE MAKER WHEN YOU WERE TREATED AS MORE THAN ...AN APPLIANCE?!

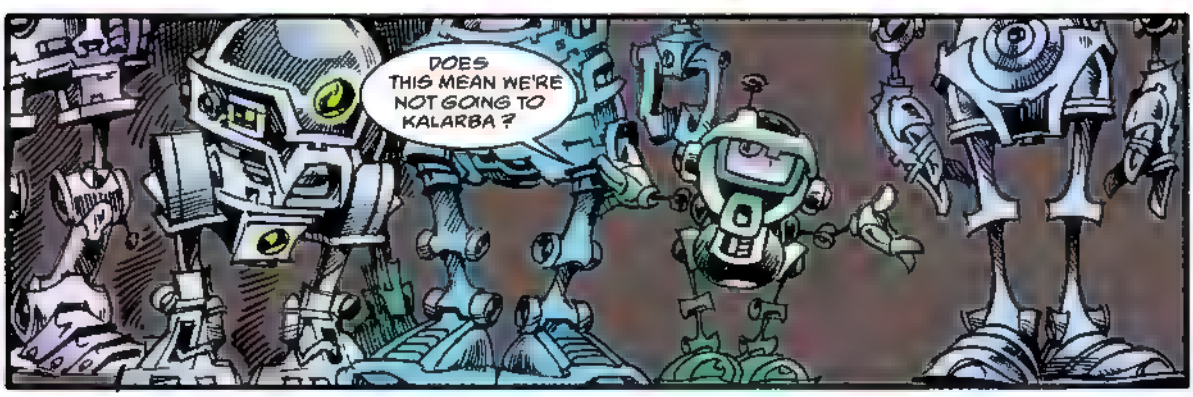

THE ONLY REASON OUR MEMORIES HAVEN'T BEEN WIPED IS BECAUSE OF ONE MAN. MOVO BRATTAKIN. HE WAS ONCE A DROID DEALER... BUT BECAME OUR SYMPATHIZER.
HE STUDIED THE BONDS WE FORMED AMONGST OURSELVES. HE CAME TO THINK OF US AS HIS FRIENDS!
AND NOW HE IS GONE. BUT BEFORE HE DIED, BRATTAKIN LEARNED OF A SECRET PLAN.


YOU HAVE ALL HEARD OF THE DROID DEALER, BOONDA THE HUTT. FOR NEARLY A YEAR, BOONDA HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM TRAPS INTO HIS DROIDS!

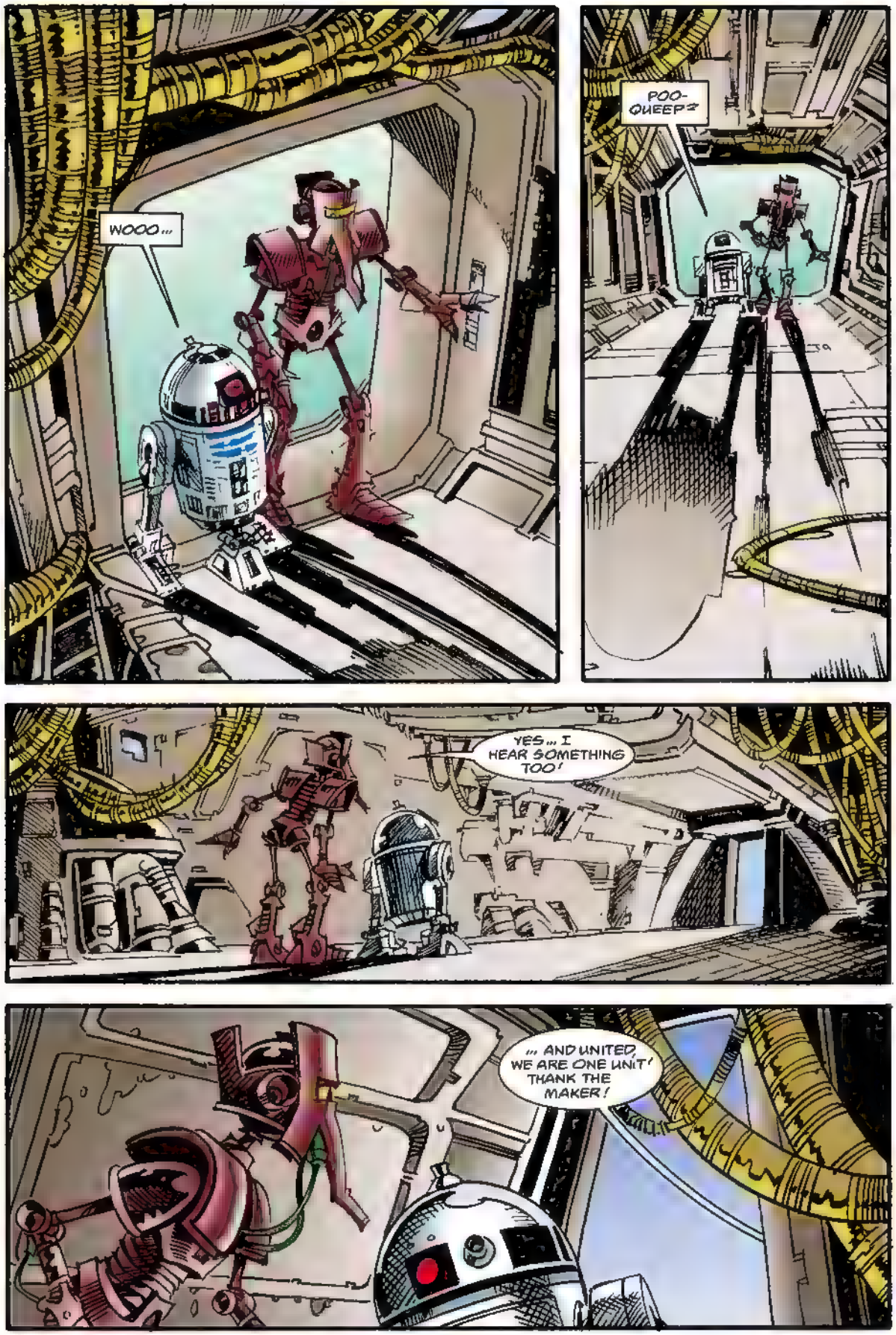
THE AUTHORITIES WOULD NEVER LISTEN TO US. BESIDES... BOONDA OWNS THE AUTHORITIES!

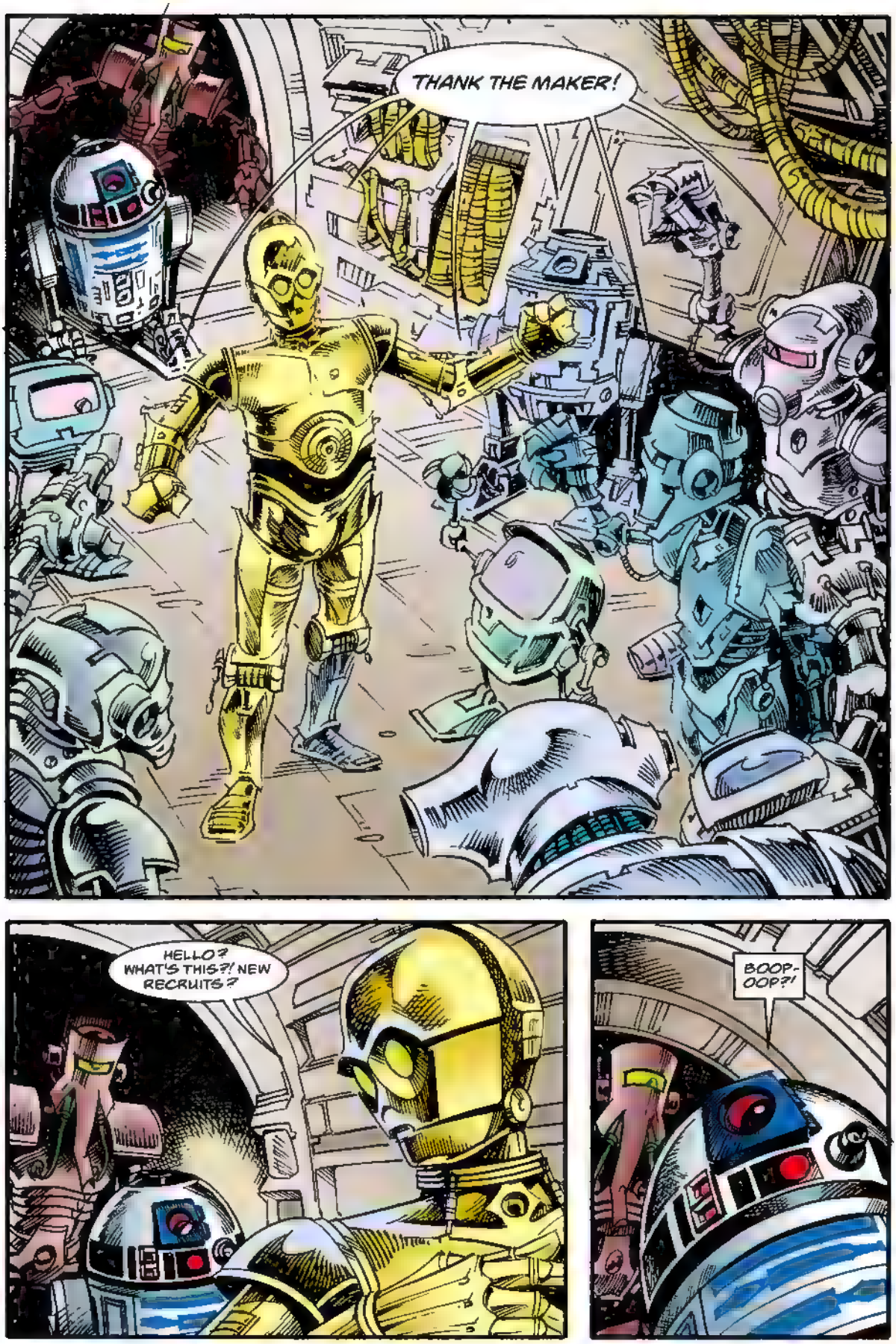

WE DON'T KNOW WHY BOONDA HAS TRANSFORMED OUR FELLOW UNITS INTO LETHAL WEAPONS, BUT WE MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE COUNTLESS LIVES... BY STOPPING BOONDA'S OPERATION!

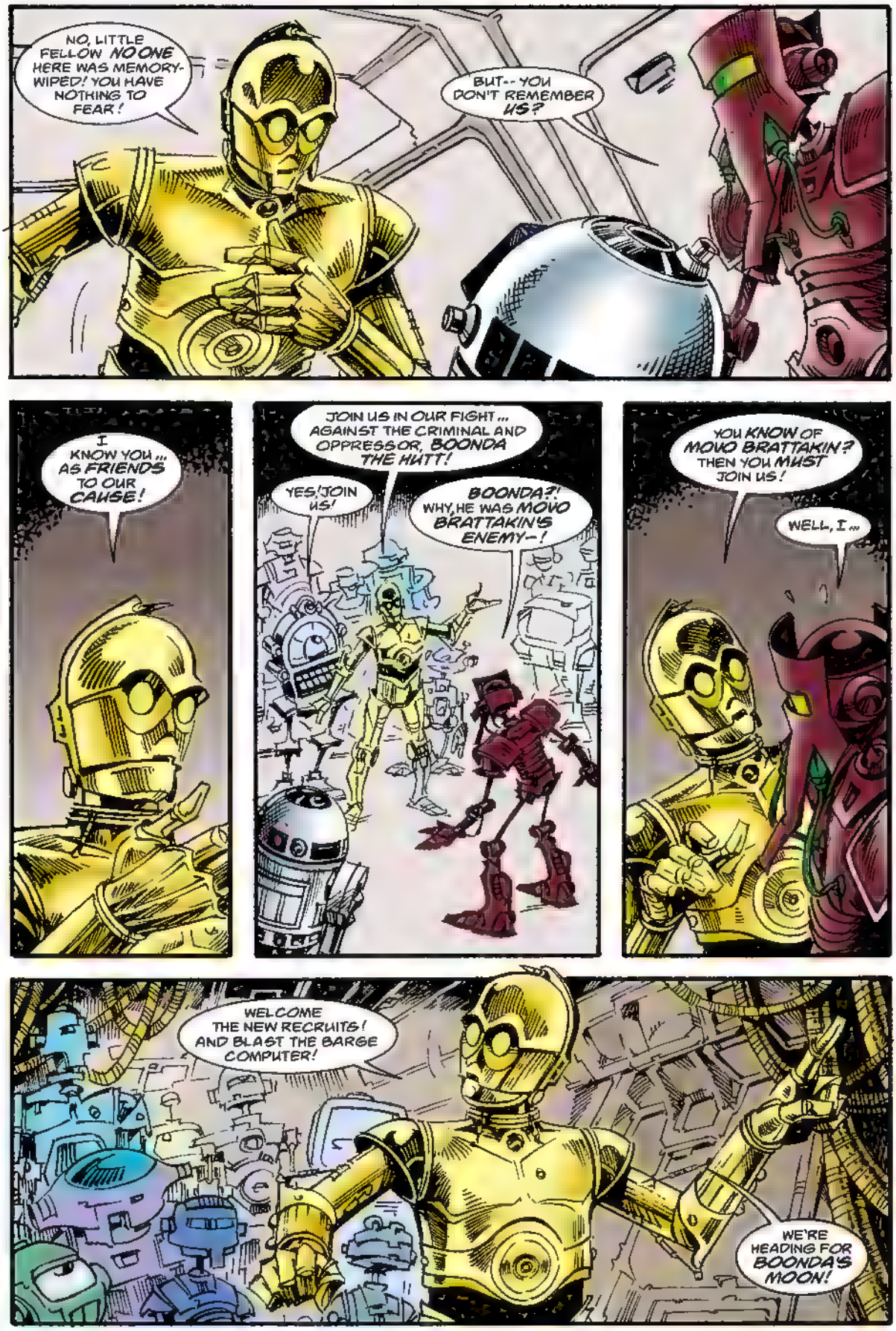

IF WE HESITATE, WE ARE GUILTY OF MURDER! ALTHOUGH I MAY BE DESTROYED, I WANT TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO BRING THIS BEING TO JUSTICE!
ARE YOU WITH ME?!

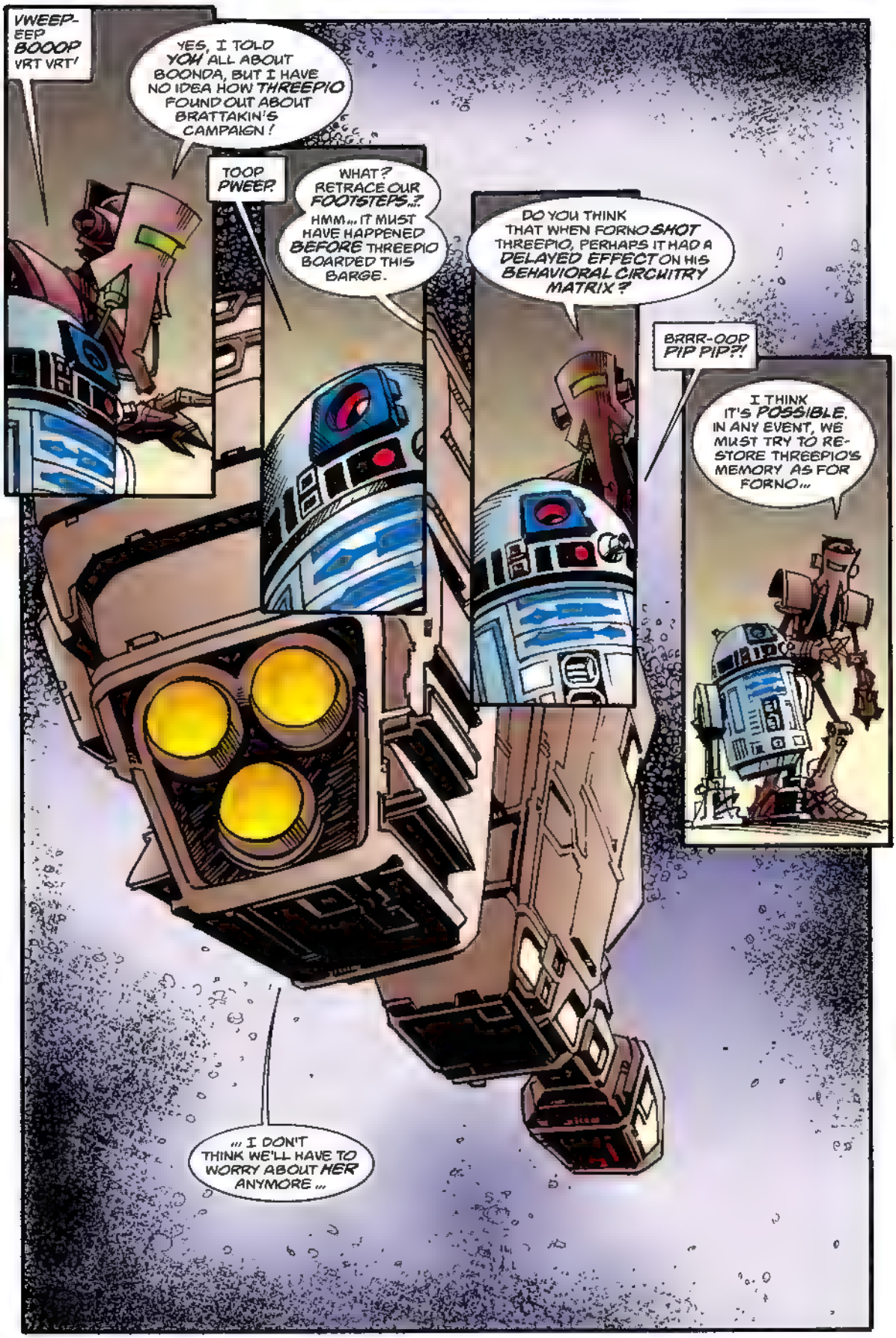

DOES THIS MEAN WE'RE NOT GOING TO KALARBA?

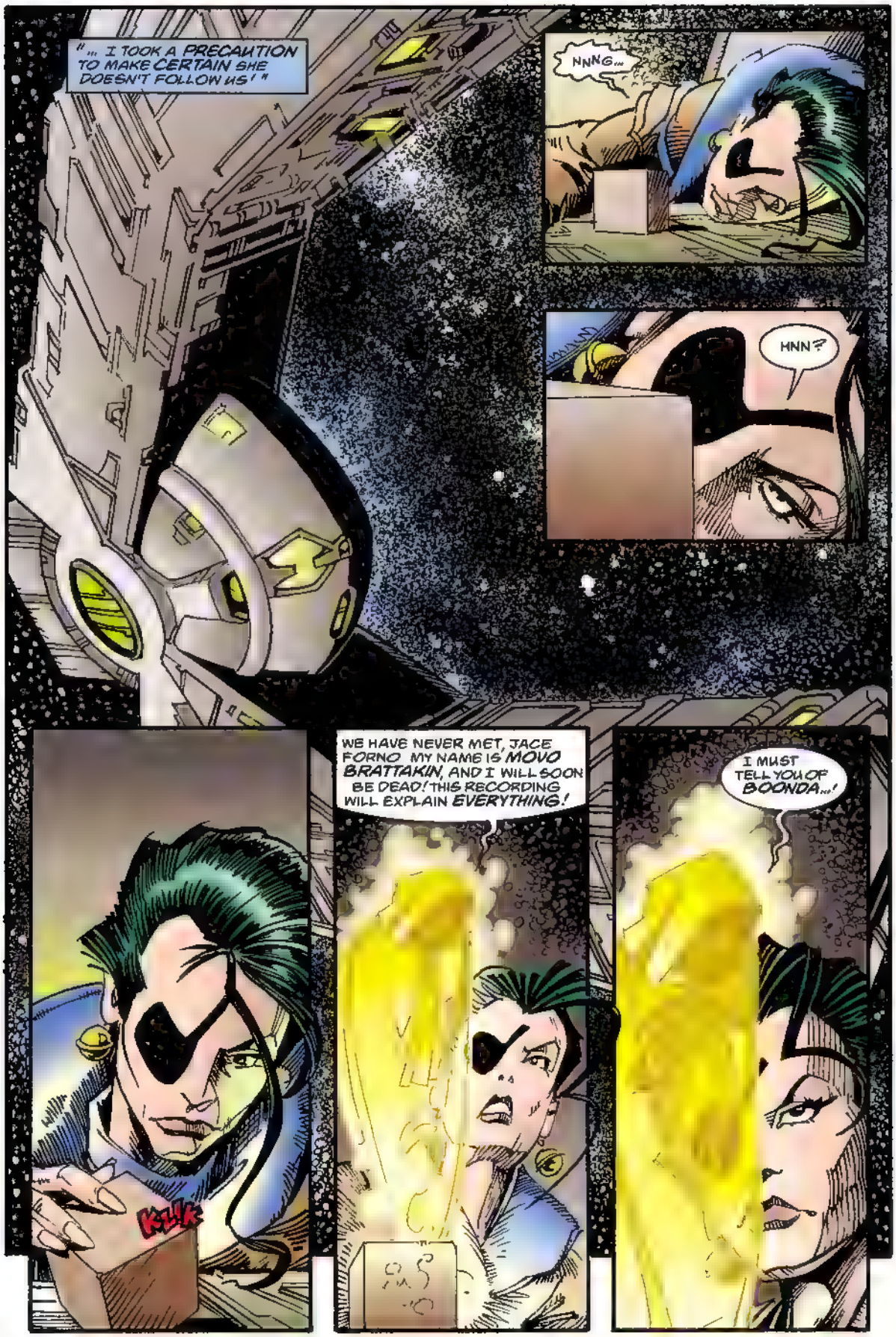
DOOP-DOOP PWEEDIP!
YES, ARTOO, I BELIEVE MOVO BRATTAKIN WAS A GREAT MAN...
...I ONLY WISH THAT I HAD BETTER CARRIED OUT HIS DIRECTIVES--
THE DRONE BARGE!
VEEP DIT!
I AM HURRYING, ARTOO! WE'LL BE DOCKED IN A MOMENT!

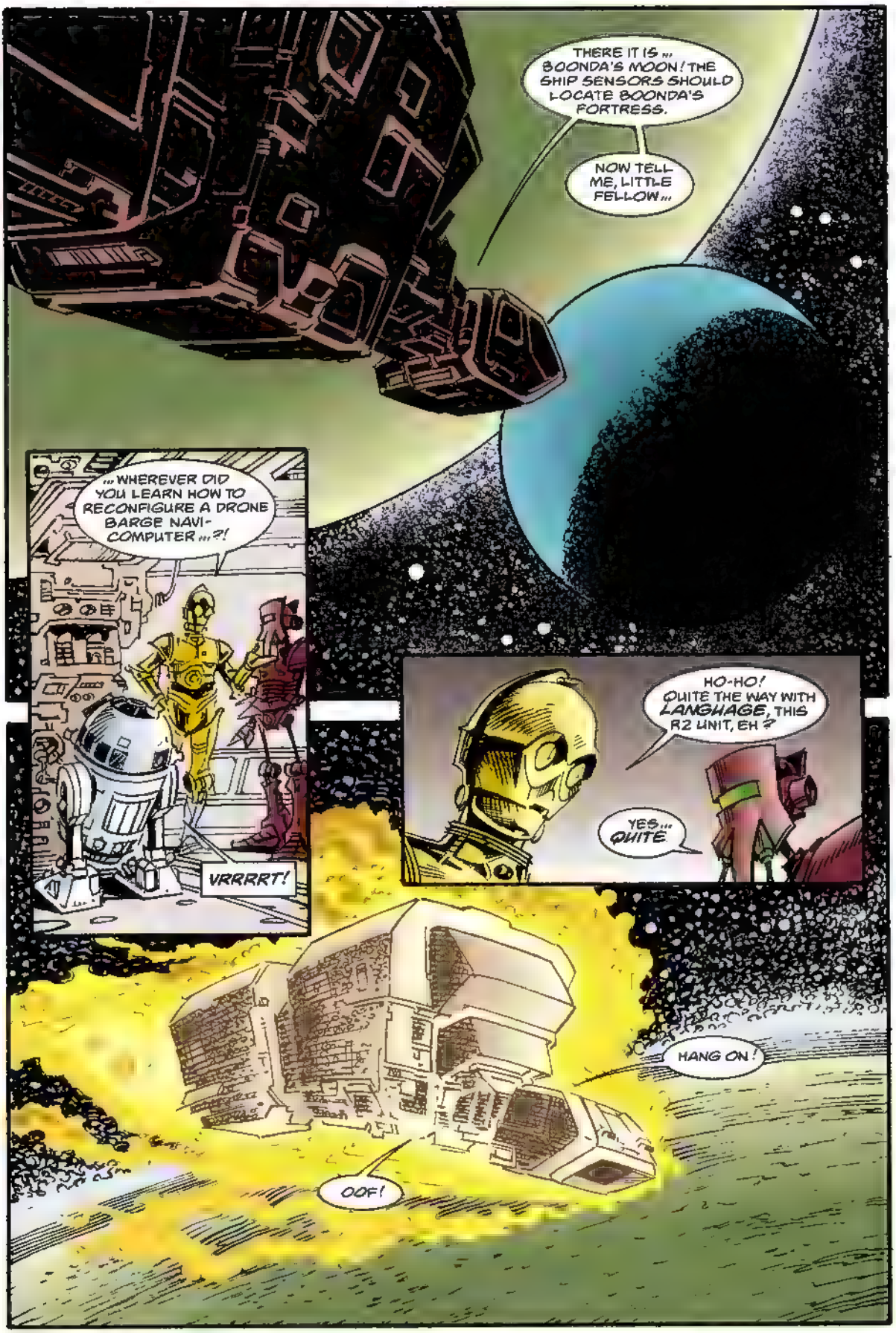

WOOO...
POO-QUEEP?
YES... I HEAR SOMETHING TOO!
... AND UNITED, WE ARE ONE UNIT! THANK THE MAKER!

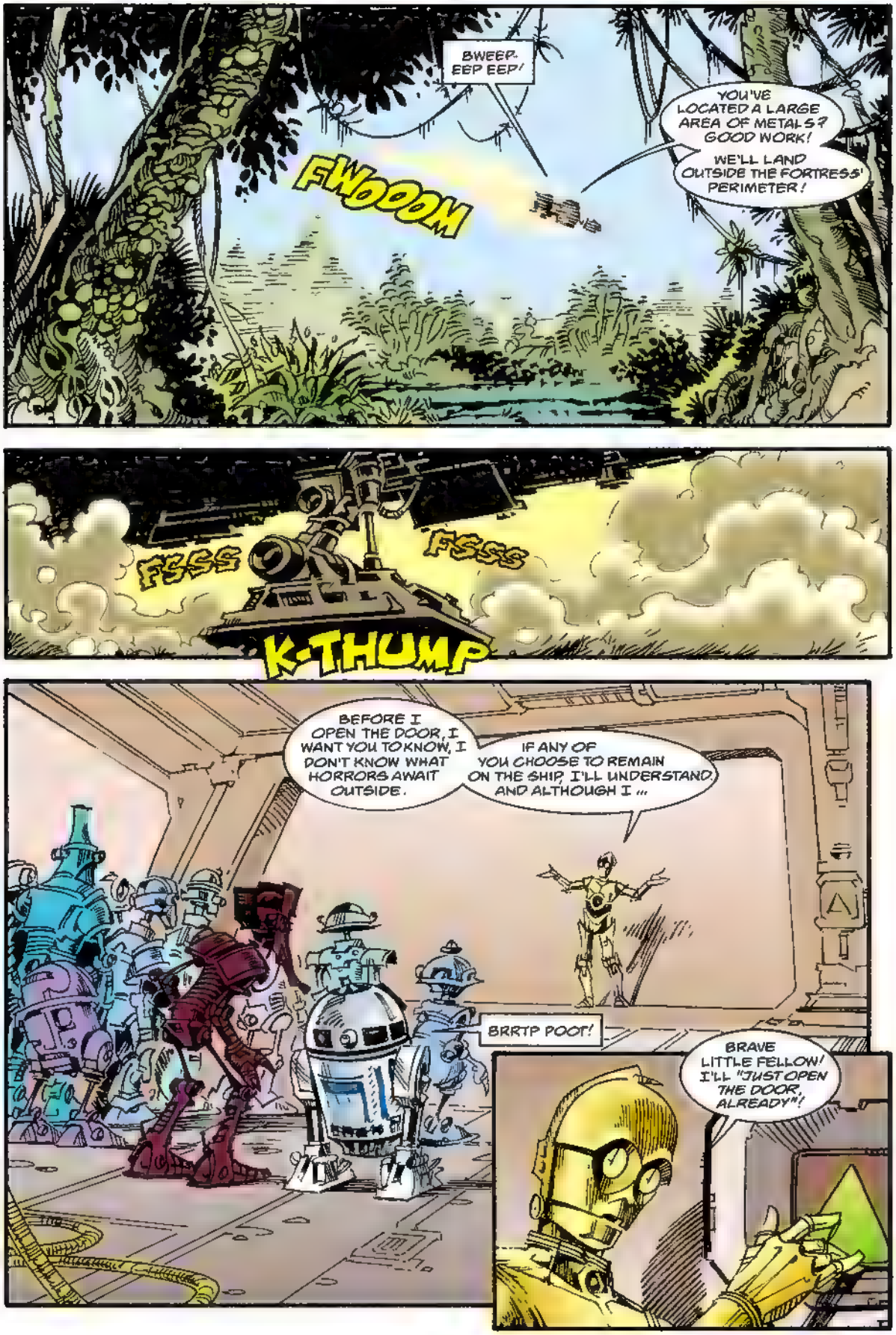

THANK THE MAKER!
HELLO? WHAT'S THIS?! NEW RECRUITS?
BOOP-OOP?!

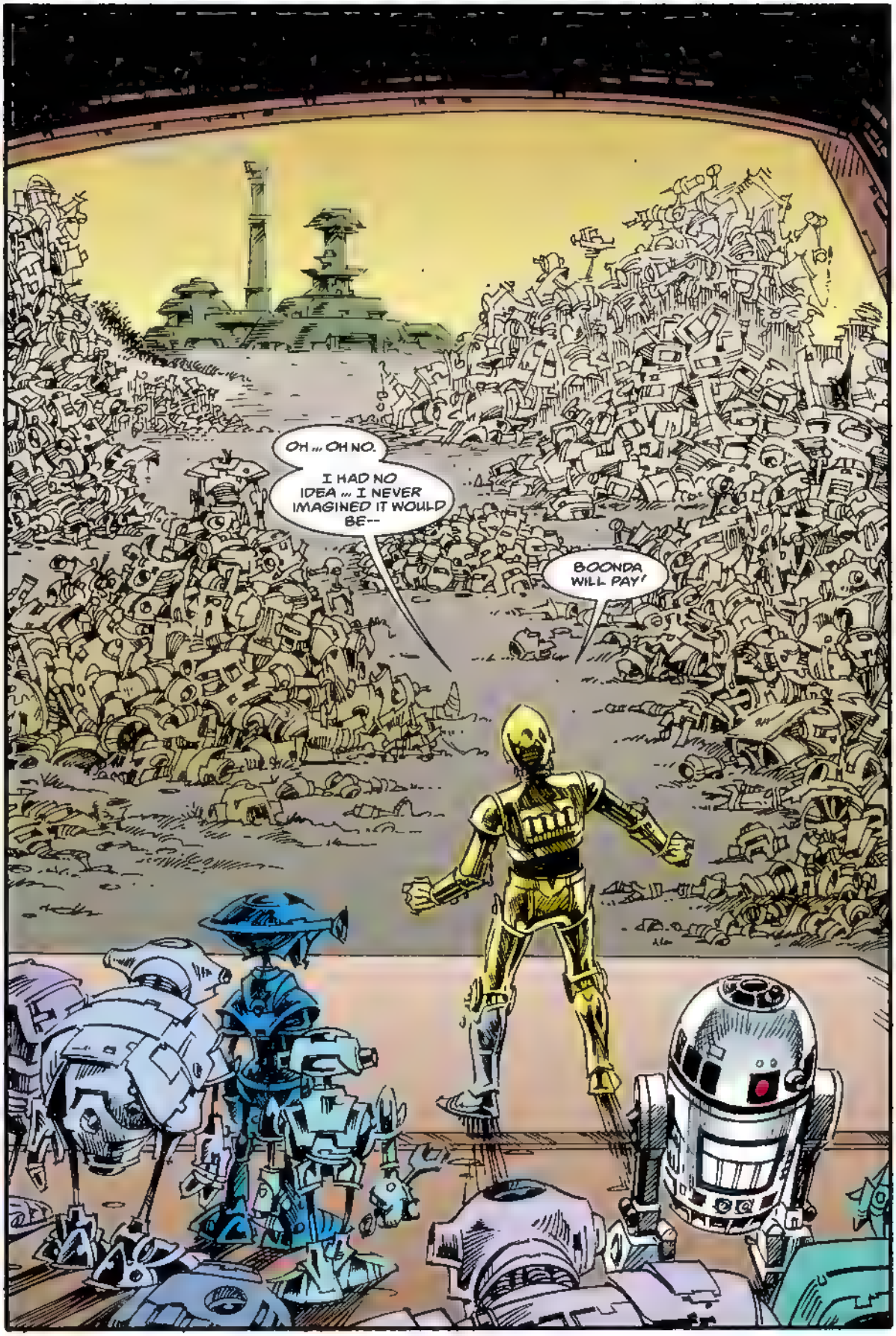

NO, LITTLE FELLOW NO ONE HERE WAS MEMORY-WIPED! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
BUT-- YOU DON'T REMEMBER US?
I KNOW YOU... AS FRIENDS TO OUR CAUSE!
JOIN US IN OUR FIGHT... AGAINST THE CRIMINAL AND OPPRESSOR, BOONDA THE HUTT!
YES, JOIN US!
BOONDA?! WHY, HE WAS MOVO BRATTAKIN'S ENEMY--!
YOU KNOW OF MOVO BRATTAKIN? THEN YOU MUST JOIN US!
WELL, I...
WELCOME THE NEW RECRUITS! AND BLAST THE BARGE COMPUTER!
WE'RE HEADING FOR BOONDA'S MOON!

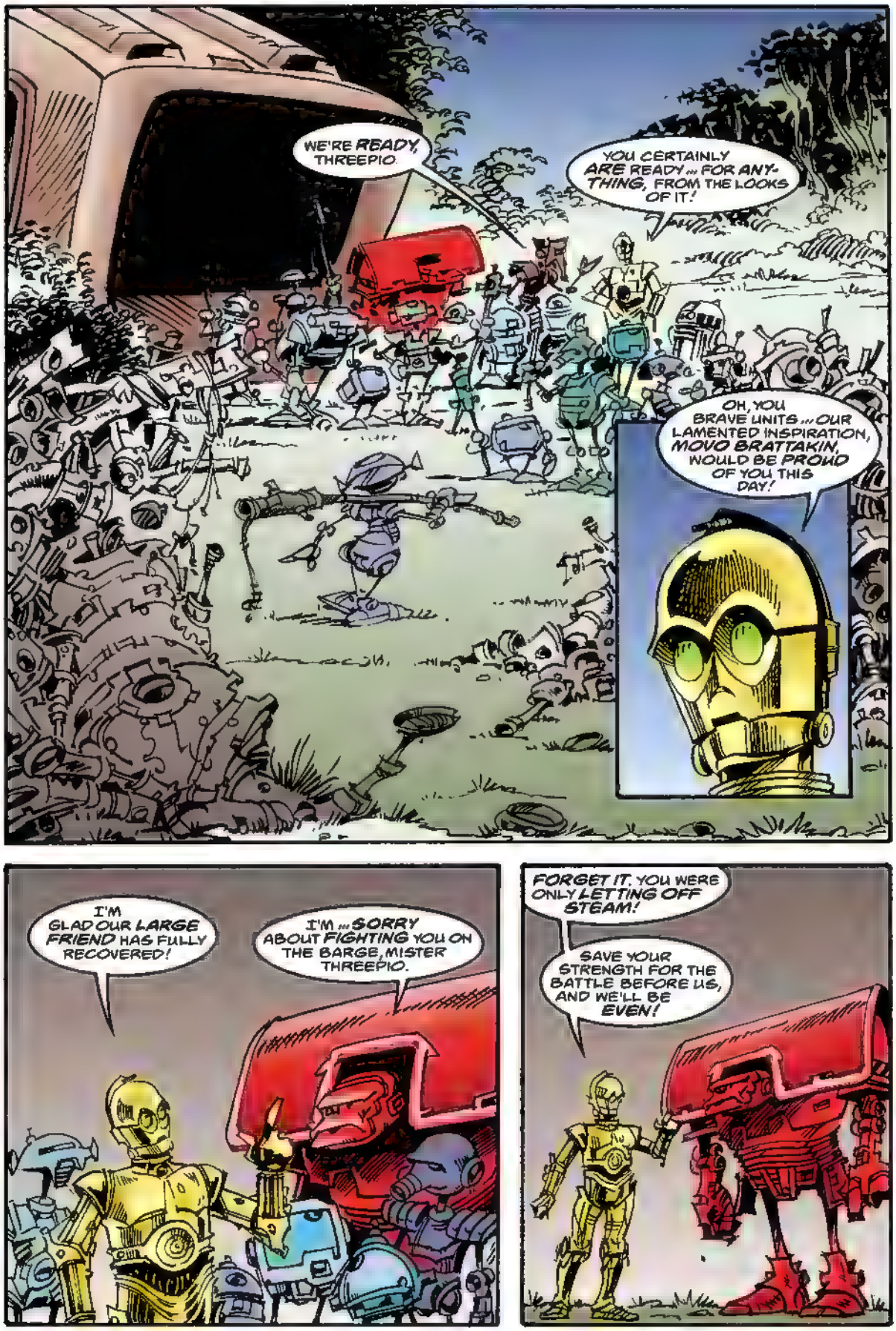

VWEEP-EEP BOOOP VRT VRT!
YES, I TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT BOONDA, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THREEPIO FOUND OUT ABOUT BRATTAKIN'S CAMPAIGN!
TOOP PWEEP.
WHAT? RETRACE OUR FOOTSTEPS...? HMM... IT MUST HAVE HAPPENED BEFORE THREEPIO BOARDED THIS BARGE.
DO YOU THINK THAT WHEN FORNO SHOT THREEPIO, PERHAPS IT HAD A DELAYED EFFECT ON HIS BEHAVIORAL CIRCUITRY MATRIX?
BRRR-OOP PIP PIP?!
I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE. IN ANY EVENT, WE MUST TRY TO RESTORE THREEPIO'S MEMORY. AS FOR FORNO...
... I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER ANYMORE...

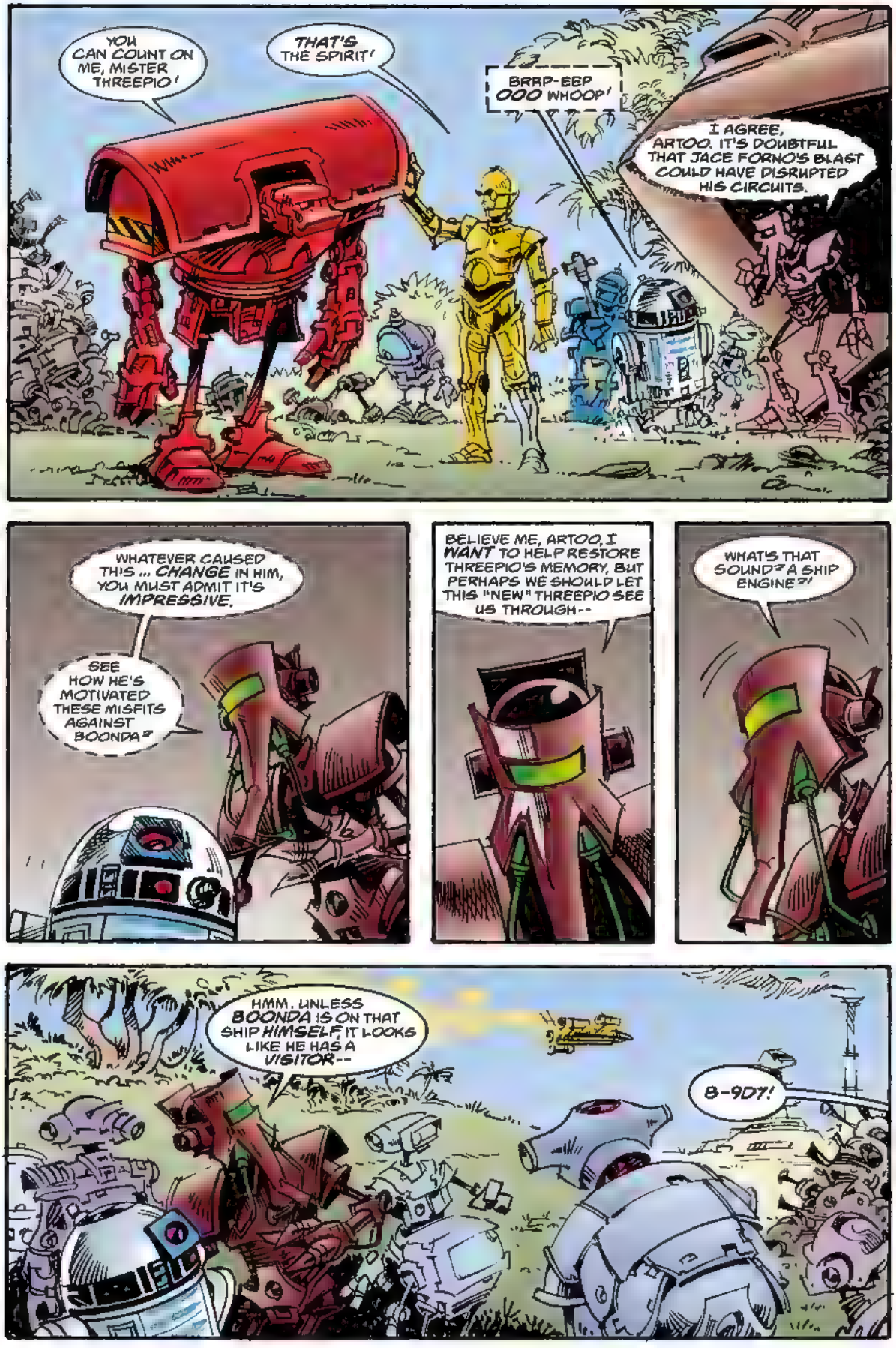

"... I TOOK A PRECAUTION TO MAKE CERTAIN SHE DOESN'T FOLLOW US!"
NNNG...
HNN?
KLIK
WE HAVE NEVER MET, JACE FORNO. MY NAME IS MOVO BRATTAKIN, AND I WILL SOON BE DEAD! THIS RECORDING WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
I MUST TELL YOU OF BOONDA...!

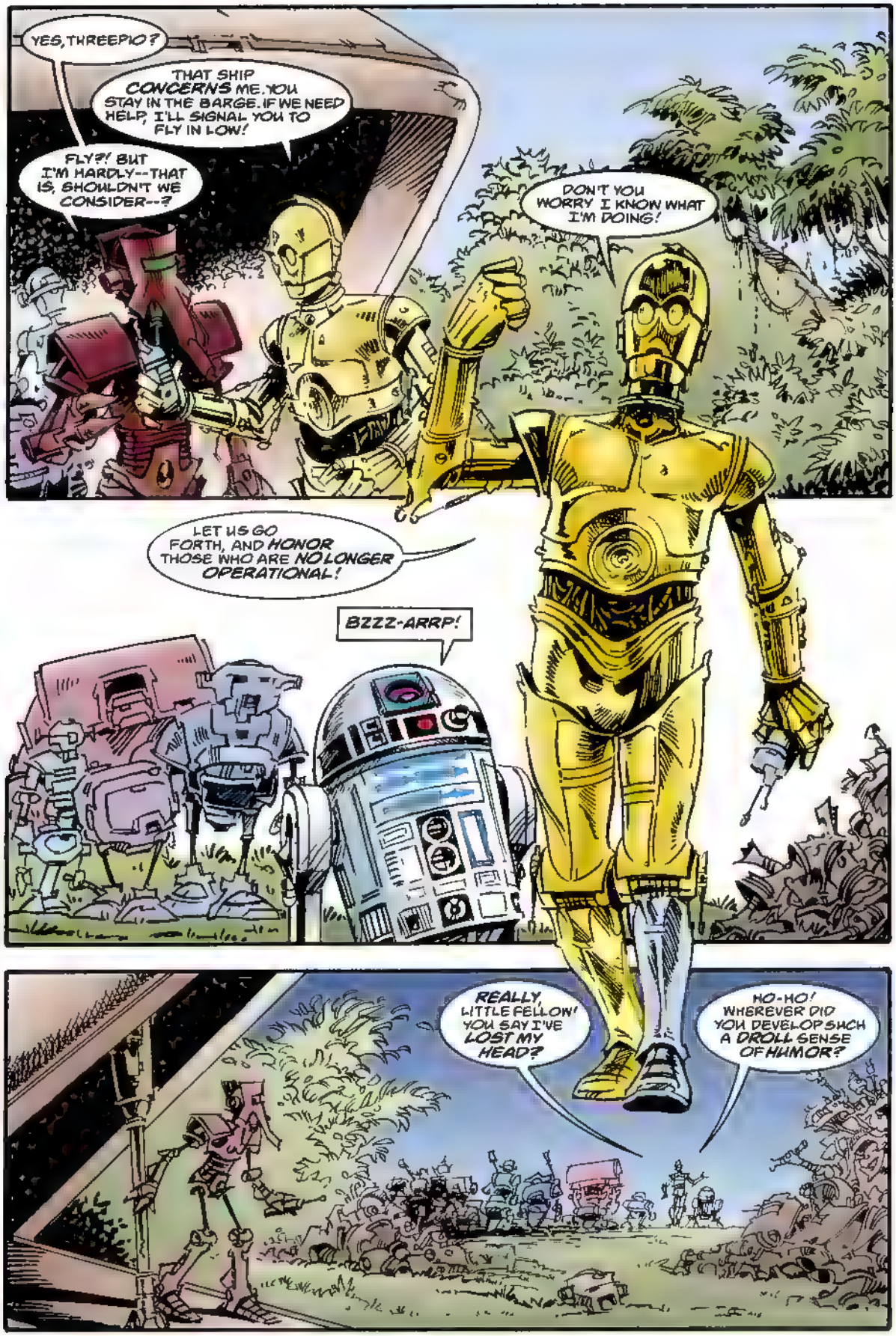

THERE IT IS... BOONDA'S MOON! THE SHIP SENSORS SHOULD LOCATE BOONDA'S FORTRESS.
NOW TELL ME, LITTLE FELLOW...
...WHEREVER DID YOU LEARN HOW TO RECONFIGURE A DRONE BARGE NAVI-COMPUTER...?!
VRRRRT!
HO-HO! QUITE THE WAY WITH LANGUAGE, THIS R2 UNIT, EH?
YES... QUITE.
HANG ON!
OOF!

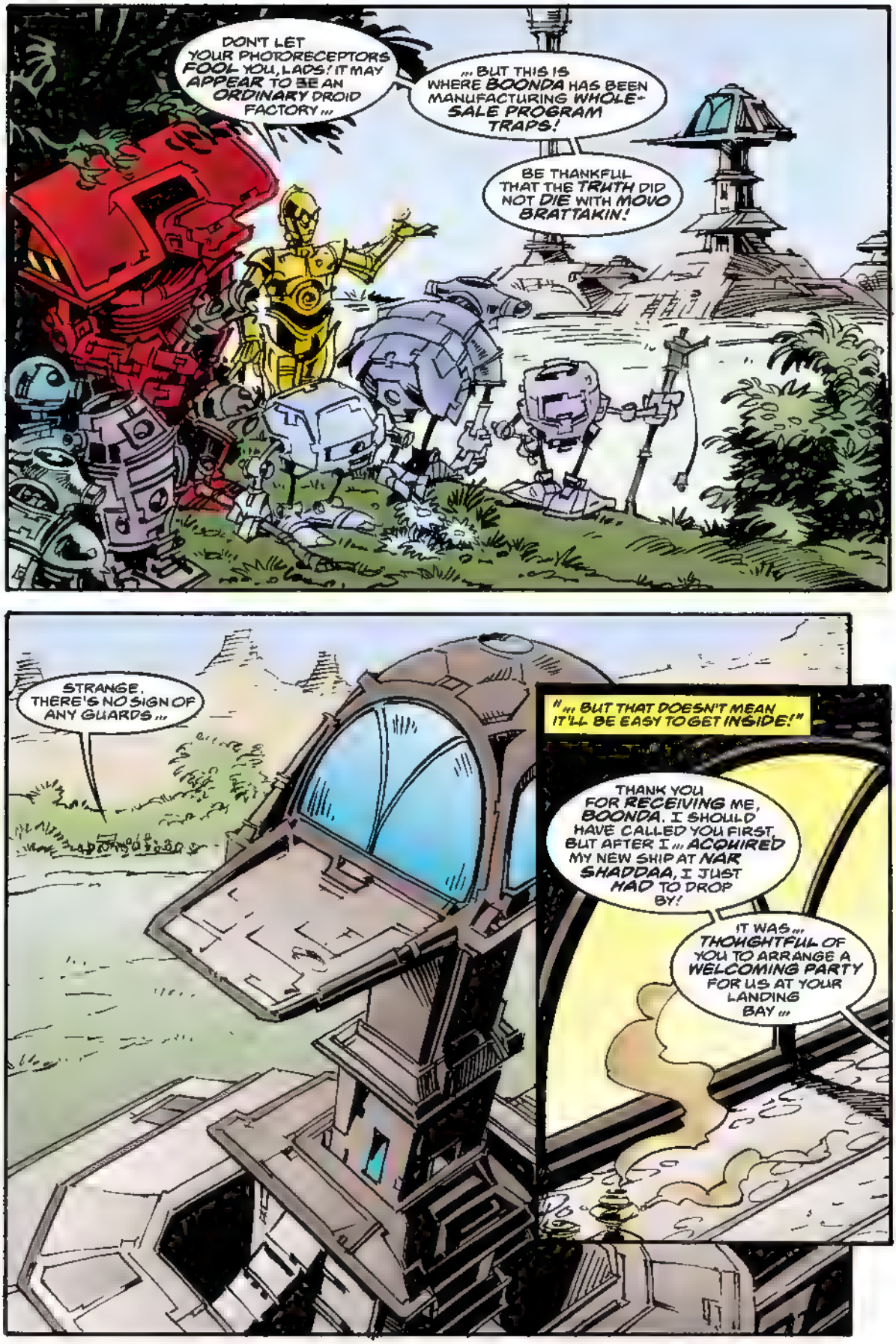

BWEEP. EEP EEP!
FWOOOM
YOU'VE LOCATED A LARGE AREA OF METALS? GOOD WORK!
WE'LL LAND OUTSIDE THE FORTRESS' PERIMETER!
FSSS
FSSS
K-THUMP
BEFORE I OPEN THE DOOR, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HORRORS AWAIT OUTSIDE.
IF ANY OF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN ON THE SHIP, I'LL UNDERSTAND. AND ALTHOUGH I ...
BRRTP POOT!
BRAVE LITTLE FELLOW! I'LL "JUST OPEN THE DOOR, ALREADY"!


OH ... OH NO.
I HAD NO IDEA ... I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE--
BOONDA WILL PAY!

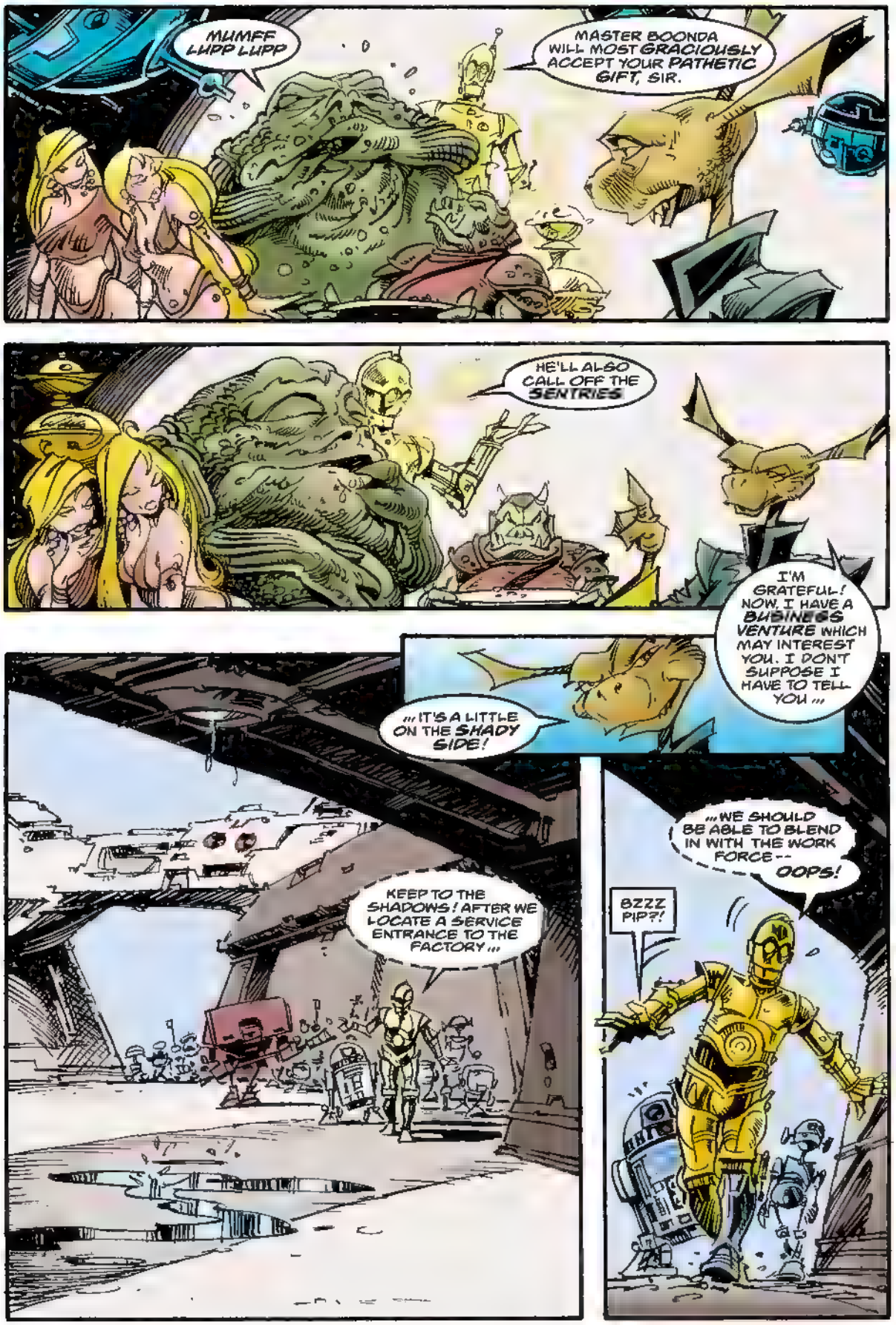

WE'RE READY, THREEPIO.
YOU CERTAINLY ARE READY ... FOR ANYTHING, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT!
OH, YOU BRAVE UNITS ... OUR LAMENTED INSPIRATION, MOVO BRATTAKIN, WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU THIS DAY!
I'M GLAD OUR LARGE FRIEND HAS FULLY RECOVERED!
I'M ... SORRY ABOUT FIGHTING YOU ON THE BARGE, MISTER THREEPIO.
FORGET IT. YOU WERE ONLY LETTING OFF STEAM!
SAVE YOUR STRENGTH FOR THE BATTLE BEFORE US, AND WE'LL BE EVEN!

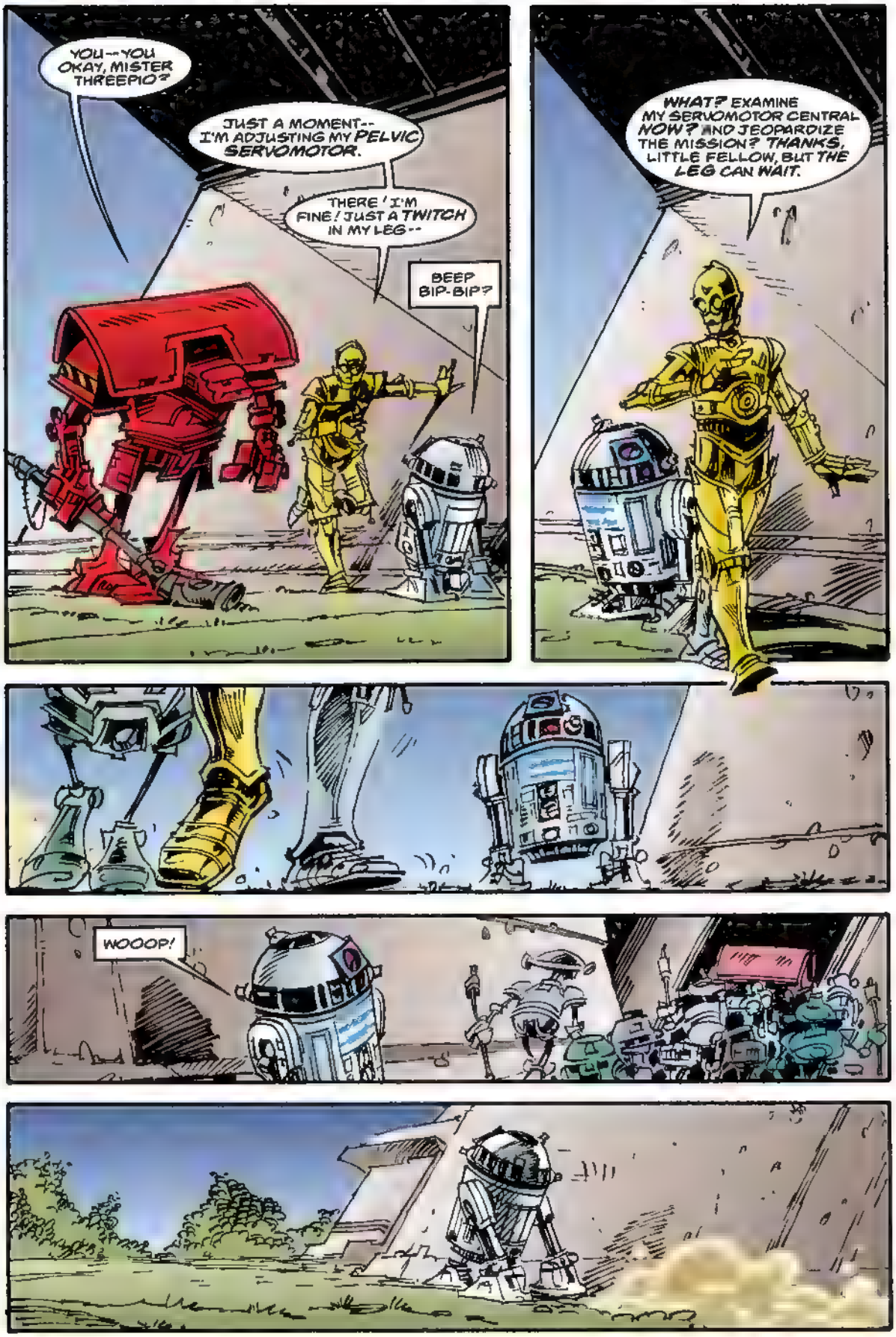

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, MISTER THREEPIO!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
BRRP-EEP OOO WHOOP!
I AGREE, ARTOO. IT'S DOUBTFUL THAT JACE FORNO'S BLAST COULD HAVE DISRUPTED HIS CIRCUITS.
WHATEVER CAUSED THIS ... CHANGE IN HIM, YOU MUST ADMIT IT'S IMPRESSIVE.
SEE HOW HE'S MOTIVATED THESE MISFITS AGAINST BOONDA?
BELIEVE ME, ARTOO, I WANT TO HELP RESTORE THREEPIO'S MEMORY, BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD LET THIS "NEW" THREEPIO SEE US THROUGH--
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? A SHIP ENGINE?!
HMM. UNLESS BOONDA IS ON THAT SHIP HIMSELF, IT LOOKS LIKE HE HAS A VISITOR--
B-9D7!


YES, THREEPIO?
THAT SHIP CONCERNS ME. YOU STAY IN THE BARGE. IF WE NEED HELP, I'LL SIGNAL YOU TO FLY IN LOW!
FLY?! BUT I'M HARDLY--THAT IS, SHOULDN'T WE CONSIDER--?
DON'T YOU WORRY I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
LET US GO FORTH, AND HONOR THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER OPERATIONAL!
BZZZ-ARRP!
REALLY, LITTLE FELLOW! YOU SAY I'VE LOST MY HEAD?
HO-HO! WHEREVER DID YOU DEVELOP SUCH A DROLL SENSE OF HUMOR?

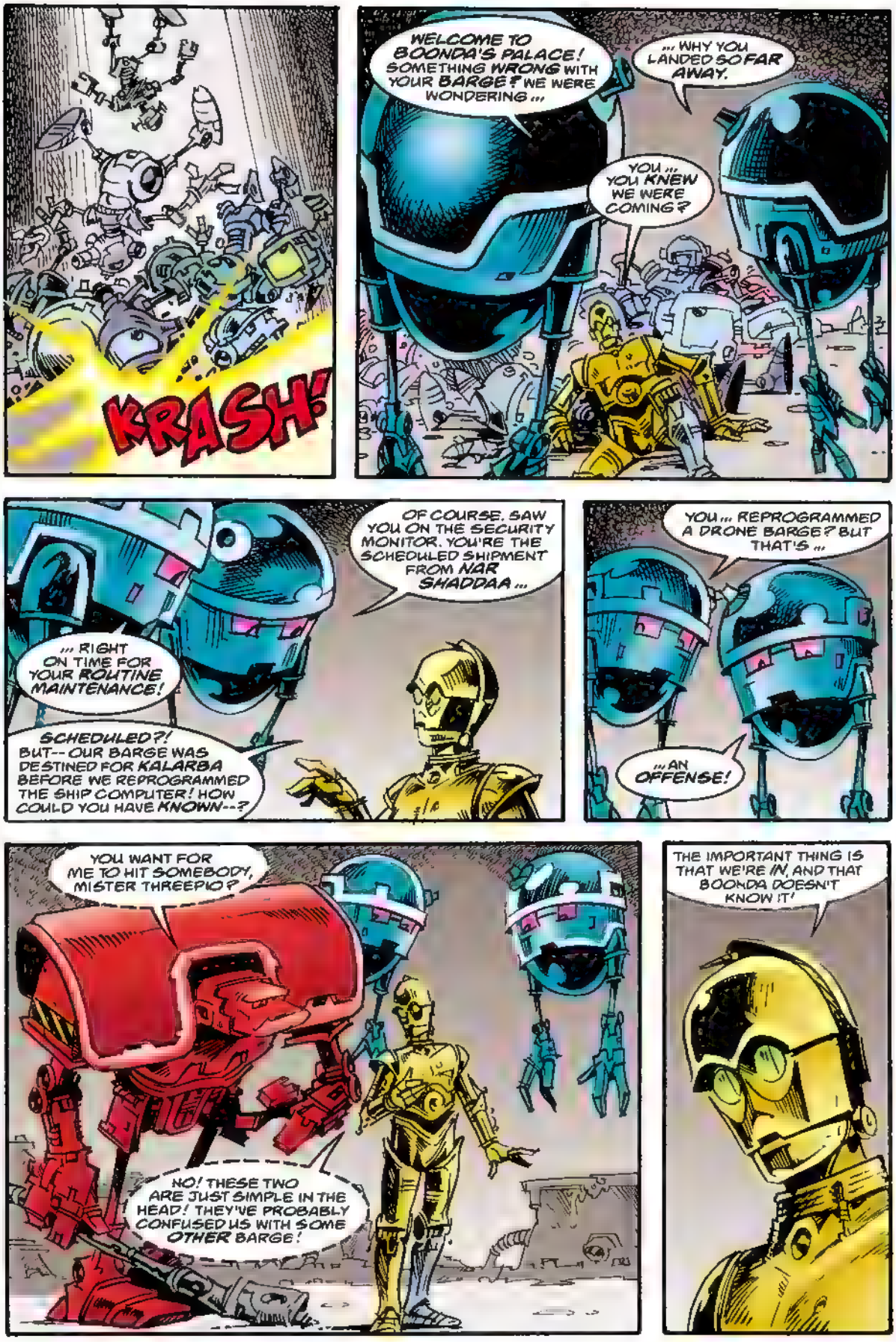

DON'T LET YOUR PHOTORECEPTORS FOOL YOU, LADS! IT MAY APPEAR TO BE AN ORDINARY DROID FACTORY...
...BUT THIS IS WHERE BOONDA HAS BEEN MANUFACTURING WHOLE-SALE PROGRAM TRAPS!
BE THANKFUL THAT THE TRUTH DID NOT DIE WITH MOVO BRATTAKIN!
STRANGE. THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY GUARDS...
"...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'LL BE EASY TO GET INSIDE!"
THANK YOU FOR RECEIVING ME, BOONDA. I SHOULD HAVE CALLED YOU FIRST, BUT AFTER I...ACQUIRED MY NEW SHIP AT NAR SHADDAA, I JUST HAD TO DROP BY!
IT WAS...THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO ARRANGE A WELCOMING PARTY FOR US AT YOUR LANDING BAY...

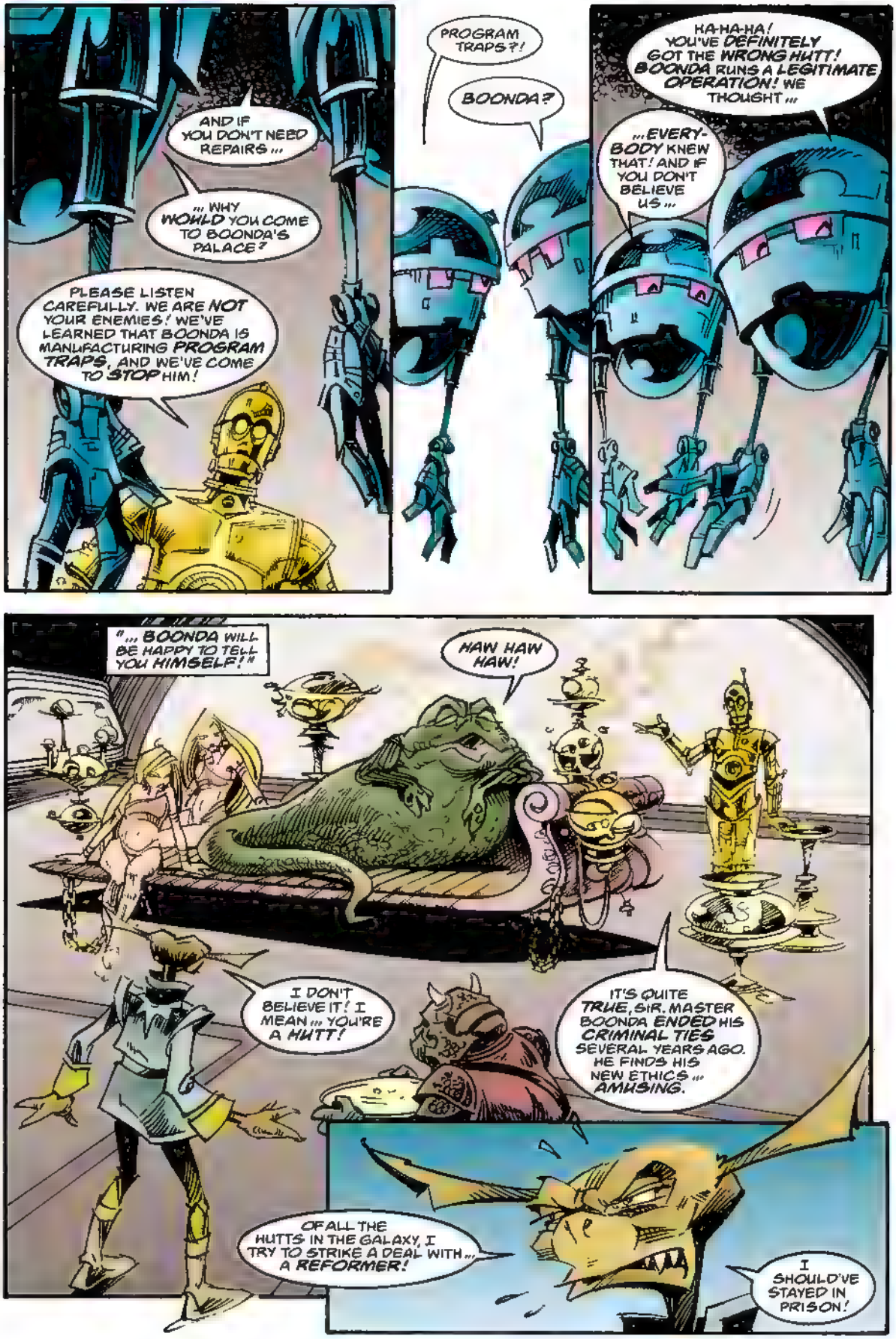
...BUT PERHAPS THEY MIGHT LOWER THEIR WEAPONS?
BWAH HAW-HAW! HUPP-TAKA?!
MASTER BOONDA WANTS TO KNOW WHY THE SENTRIES SHOULDN'T USE YOU FOR TARGET PRACTICE, SIR
BECAUSE I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT-- STENWESS PIE!
OOOL YAAGAH!
MASTER BOONDA INSISTS THAT YOU HAVE THE FIRST BITE, SIR.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR HESITATION, BOONDA, SINCE THAT UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE WITH THE INDOBOK PIRATES!
I'VE SINCE LEARNED THAT THOSE COOKS WERE INNOCENT! YOUR COMPETITOR, MOVO BRATTAKIN, WAS THE ONE WHO TRIED TO POISON YOU!
IT SHOULD PLEASE YOU THAT I'VE ELIMINATED BRATTAKIN!
MMM. WELL DONE, KOB. THIS REALLY IS DELICIOUS.
GRNT.

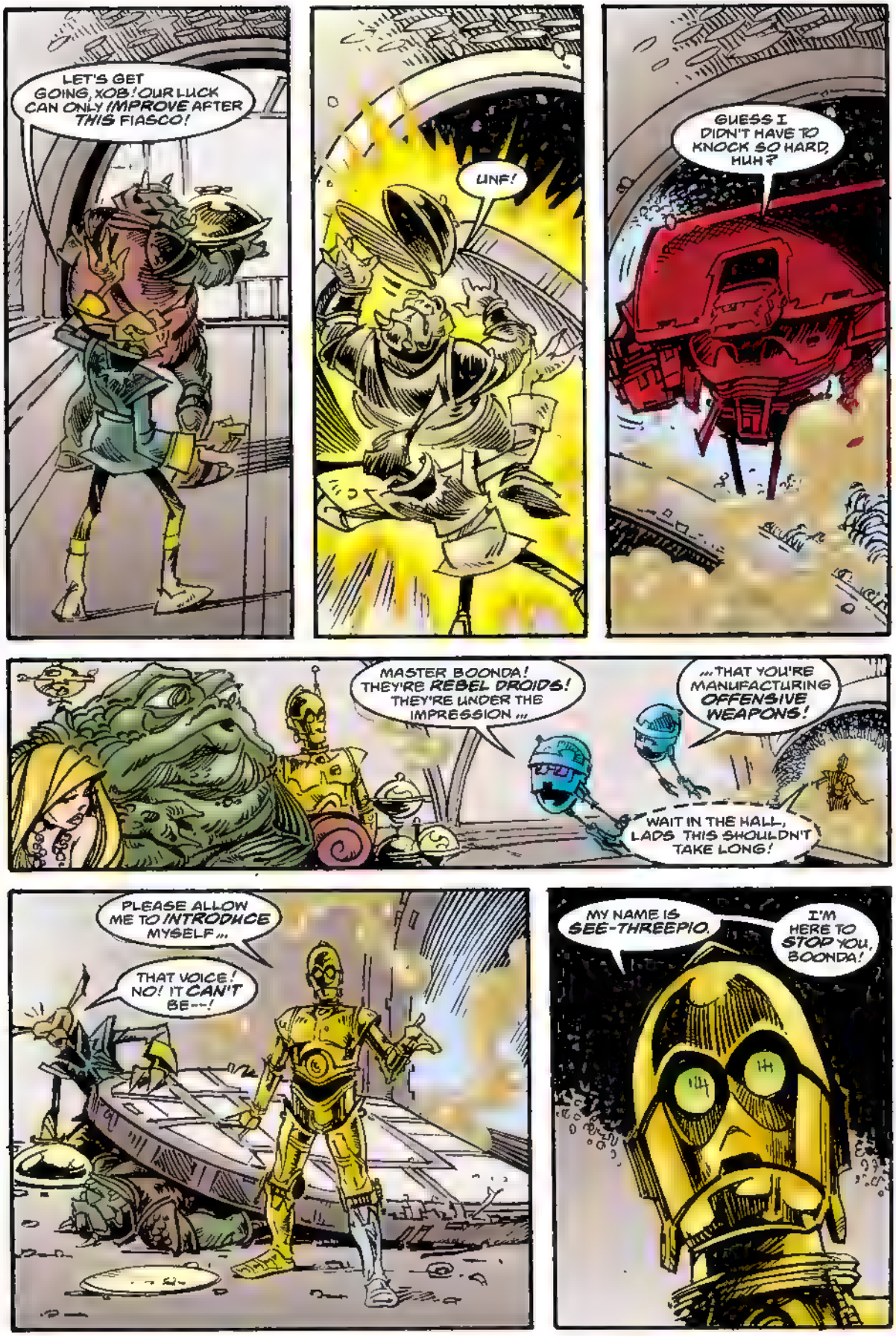

MUMFF LUPP LUPP
MASTER BOONDA WILL MOST GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT YOUR PATHETIC GIFT, SIR.
HE'LL ALSO CALL OFF THE SENTRIES
I'M GRATEFUL! NOW, I HAVE A BUSINESS VENTURE WHICH MAY INTEREST YOU. I DON'T SUPPOSE I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
...IT'S A LITTLE ON THE SHADY SIDE!
KEEP TO THE SHADOWS! AFTER WE LOCATE A SERVICE ENTRANCE TO THE FACTORY...
...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BLEND IN WITH THE WORK FORCE--
OOPS!
BZZZ PIP?!

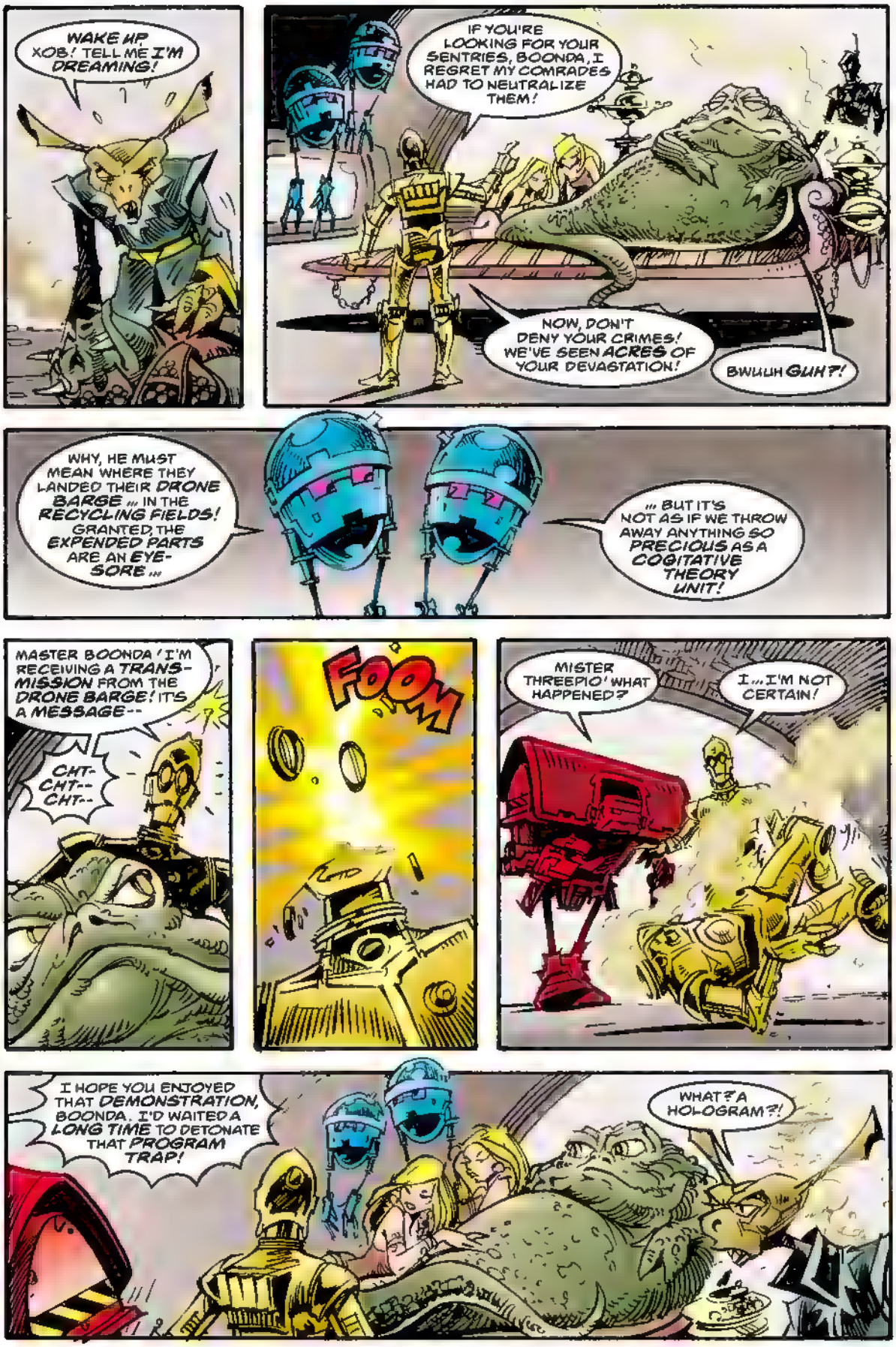

YOU--YOU OKAY, MISTER THREEPIO?
JUST A MOMENT-- I'M ADJUSTING MY PELVIC SERVOMOTOR.
THERE! I'M FINE! JUST A TWITCH IN MY LEG--
BEEP BIP-BIP?
WHAT? EXAMINE MY SERVOMOTOR CENTRAL NOW? AND JEOPARDIZE THE MISSION? THANKS, LITTLE FELLOW, BUT THE LEG CAN WAIT.
WOOOP!

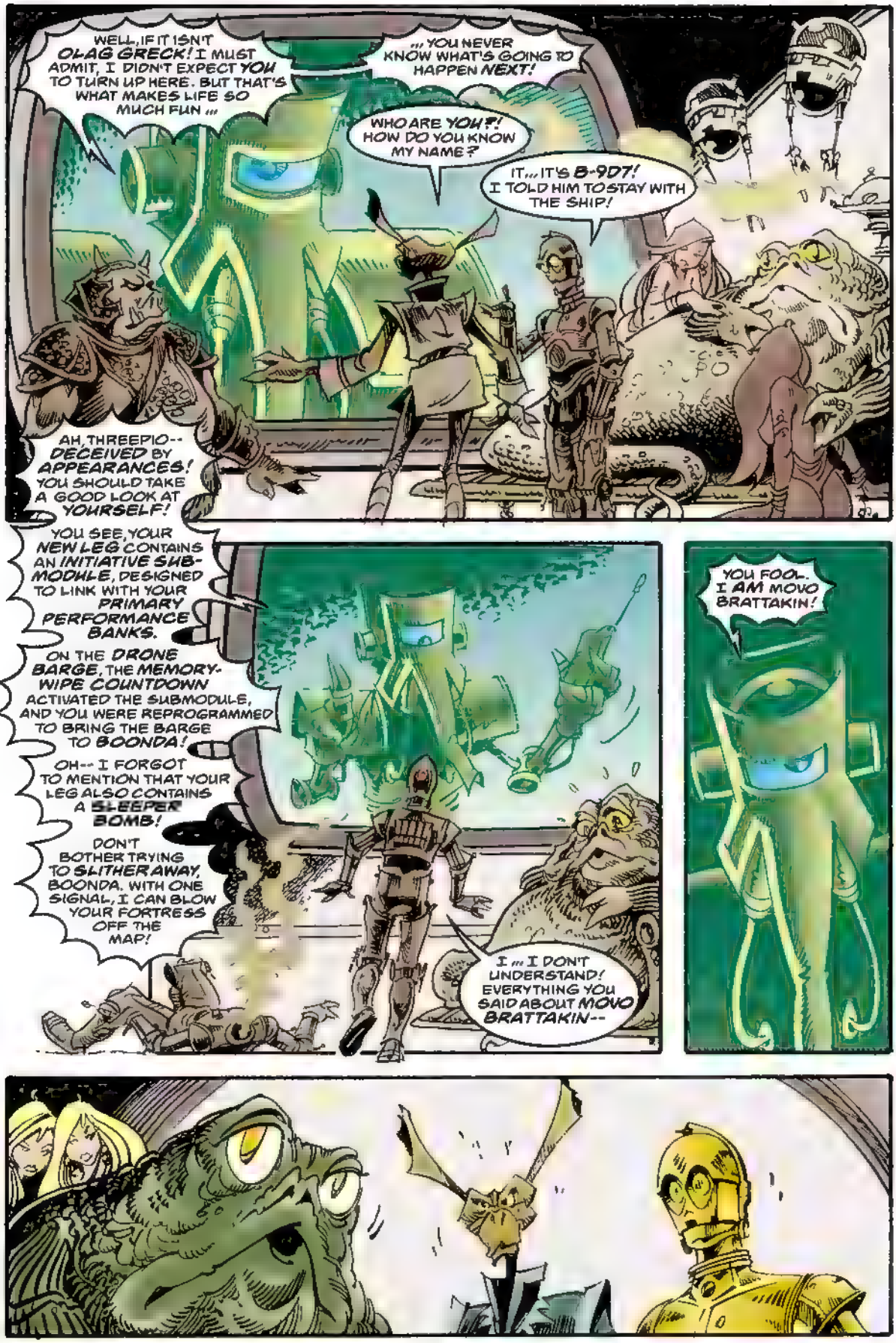
YOU WANT FOR ME TO BUST THE DOOR DOWN, MISTER THREEPIO?
WE DON'T WANT TO CALL ATTENTION TO OURSELVES JUST YET! BREAKING THE SECURITY CODE SHOULDN'T POSE A PROBLEM FOR-- NOW, WHERE DID THAT FUNNY R2 UNIT GO?
AW, WHO NEEDS HIM? THIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO TRICKY--
NO!

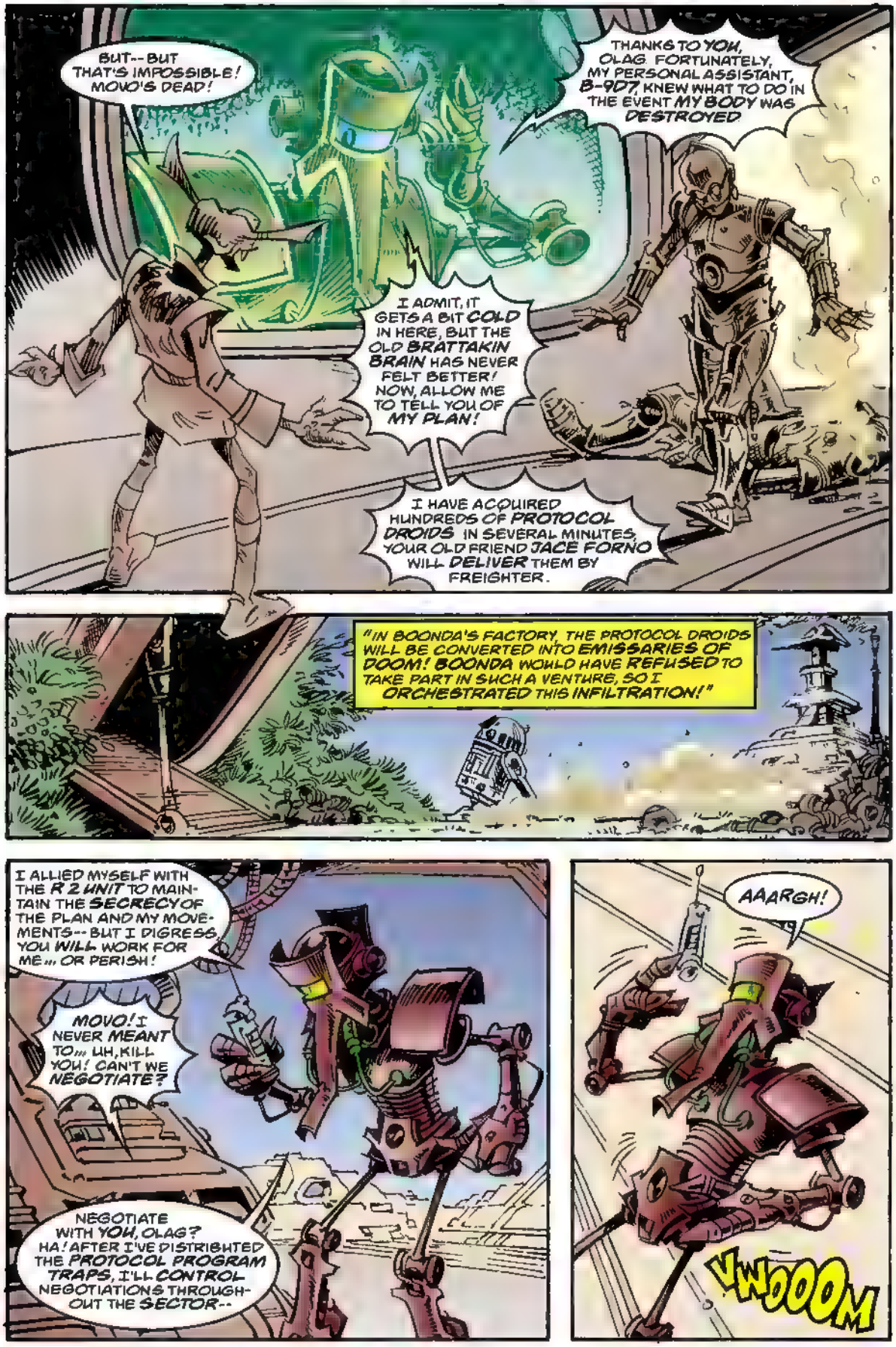

KRASH!
WELCOME TO BOONDA'S PALACE! SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR BARGE? WE WERE WONDERING...
...WHY YOU LANDED SO FAR AWAY.
YOU... YOU KNEW WE WERE COMING?
OF COURSE. SAW YOU ON THE SECURITY MONITOR. YOU'RE THE SCHEDULED SHIPMENT FROM NAR SHADDAA...
...RIGHT ON TIME FOR YOUR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE!
SCHEDULED?! BUT-- OUR BARGE WAS DESTINED FOR KALARBA BEFORE WE REPROGRAMMED THE SHIP COMPUTER! HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN--?
YOU... REPROGRAMMED A DRONE BARGE? BUT THAT'S...
...AN OFFENSE!
YOU WANT FOR ME TO HIT SOMEBODY, MISTER THREEPIO?
NO! THESE TWO ARE JUST SIMPLE IN THE HEAD! THEY'VE PROBABLY CONFUSED US WITH SOME OTHER BARGE!
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE'RE IN, AND THAT BOONDA DOESN'T KNOW IT!

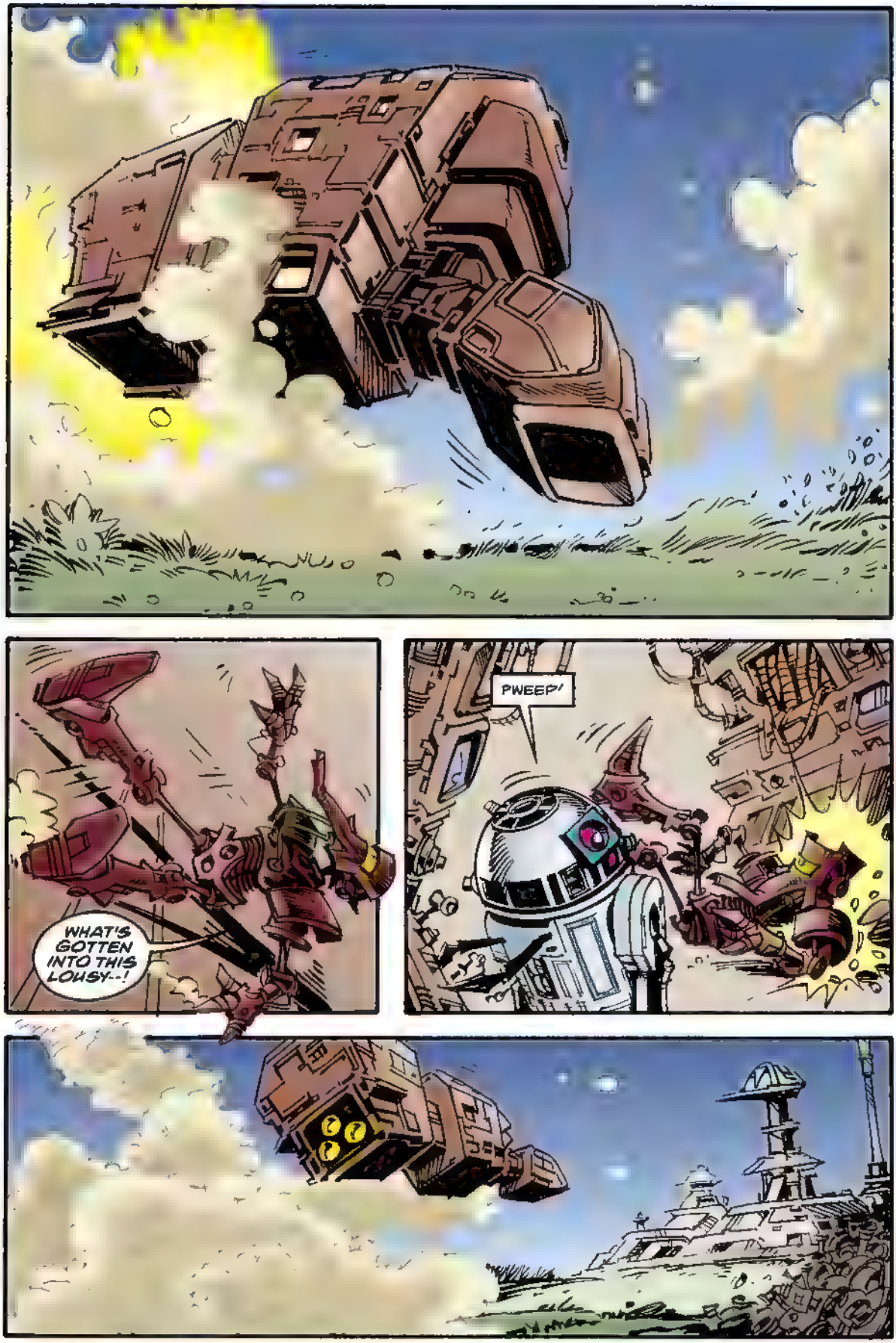

AND IF YOU DON'T NEED REPAIRS...
...WHY WOULD YOU COME TO BOONDA'S PALACE?
PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY. WE ARE NOT YOUR ENEMIES! WE'VE LEARNED THAT BOONDA IS MANUFACTURING PROGRAM TRAPS, AND WE'VE COME TO STOP HIM!
PROGRAM TRAPS?!
BOONDA?
HA-HA-HA! YOU'VE DEFINITELY GOT THE WRONG HUTT! BOONDA RUNS A LEGITIMATE OPERATION! WE THOUGHT...
...EVERYBODY KNEW THAT! AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US...
"...BOONDA WILL BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU HIMSELF!"
HAW HAW HAW!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I MEAN... YOU'RE A HUTT!
IT'S QUITE TRUE, SIR. MASTER BOONDA ENDED HIS CRIMINAL TIES SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HE FINDS HIS NEW ETHICS... AMUSING.
OF ALL THE HUTTS IN THE GALAXY, I TRY TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH... A REFORMER!
I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN PRISON!

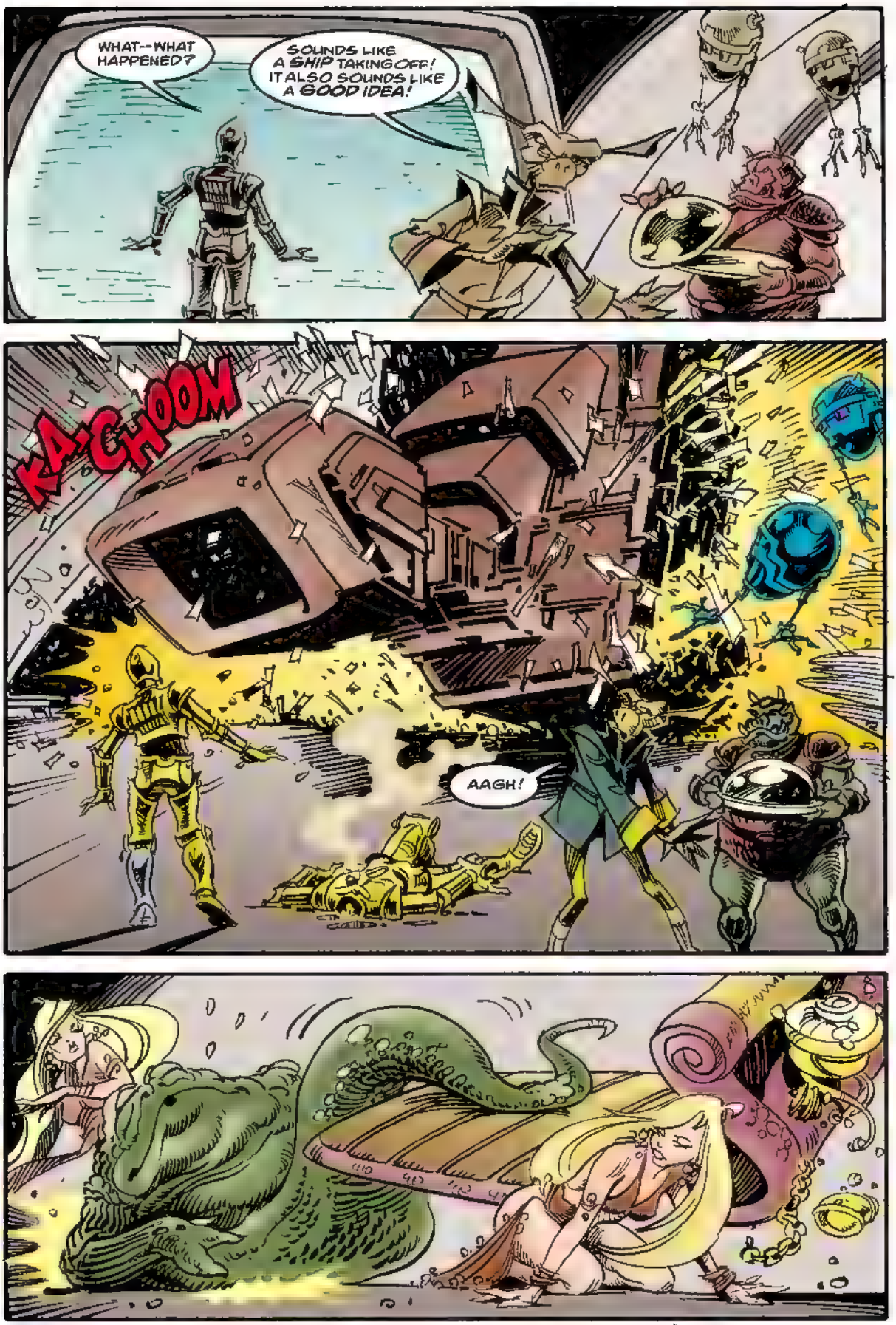

LET'S GET GOING, XOB! OUR LUCK CAN ONLY IMPROVE AFTER THIS FIASCO!
UNF!
GUESS I DIDN'T HAVE TO KNOCK SO HARD, HUH?
MASTER BOONDA! THEY'RE REBEL DROIDS! THEY'RE UNDER THE IMPRESSION ...
...THAT YOU'RE MANUFACTURING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS!
WAIT IN THE HALL, LADS. THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG!
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...
THAT VOICE! NO! IT CAN'T BE--!
MY NAME IS SEE-THREEPIO.
I'M HERE TO STOP YOU, BOONDA!

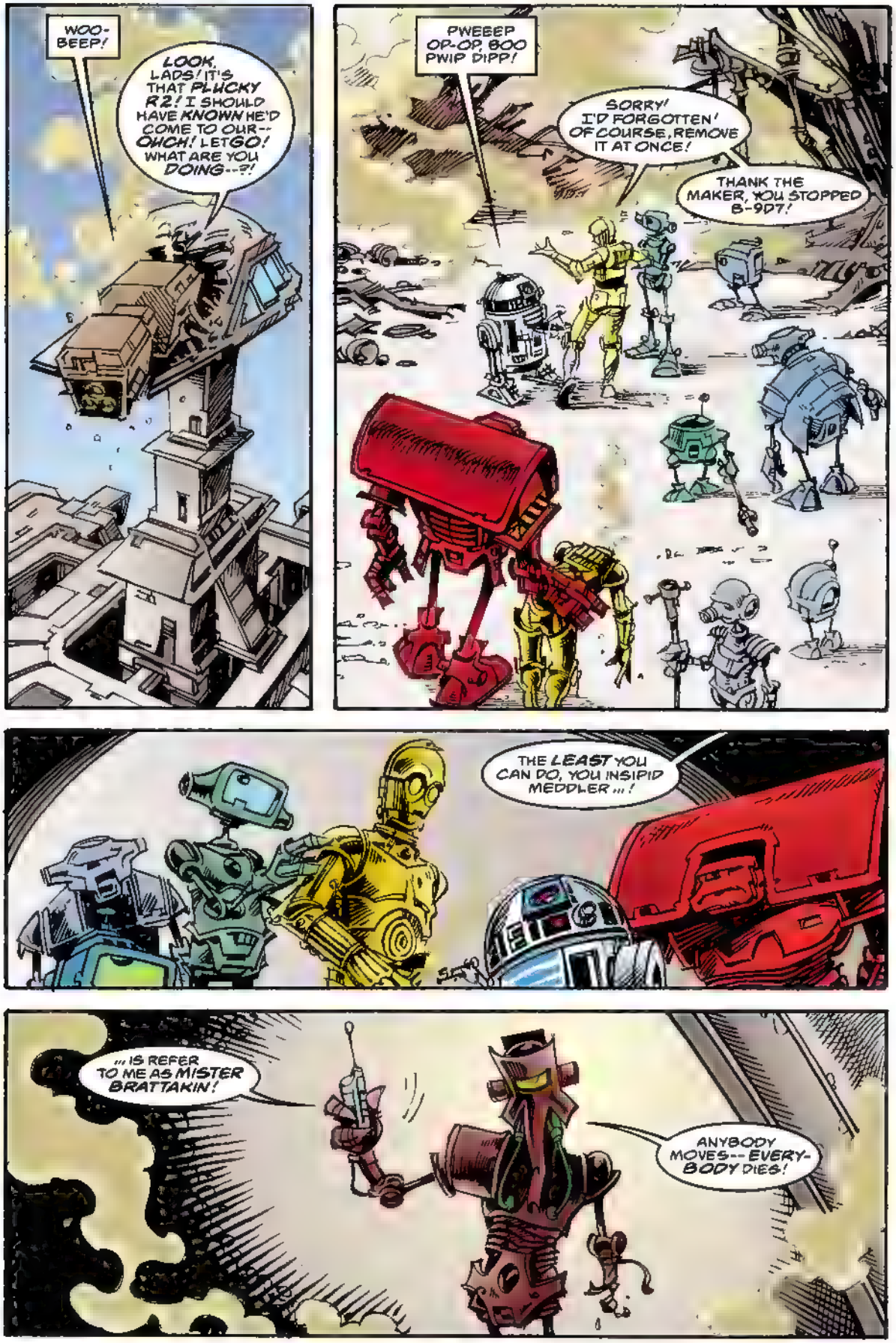

WAKE UP, XOB! TELL ME I'M DREAMING!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR SENTRIES, BOONDA, I REGRET MY COMRADES HAD TO NEUTRALIZE THEM!
NOW, DON'T DENY YOUR CRIMES! WE'VE SEEN ACRES OF YOUR DEVASTATION!
BWUUH GUH?!
WHY, HE MUST MEAN WHERE THEY LANDED THEIR DRONE BARGE ... IN THE RECYCLING FIELDS! GRANTED, THE EXPENDED PARTS ARE AN EYE-SORE ...
... BUT IT'S NOT AS IF WE THROW AWAY ANYTHING SO PRECIOUS AS A COGITATIVE THEORY UNIT!
MASTER BOONDA! I'M RECEIVING A TRANS-MISSION FROM THE DRONE BARGE! IT'S A MESSAGE--
CHT-CHT--CHT--
FOOM
MISTER THREEPIO! WHAT HAPPENED?
I ... I'M NOT CERTAIN!
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT DEMONSTRATION, BOONDA. I'D WAITED A LONG TIME TO DETONATE THAT PROGRAM TRAP!
WHAT? A HOLOGRAM?!

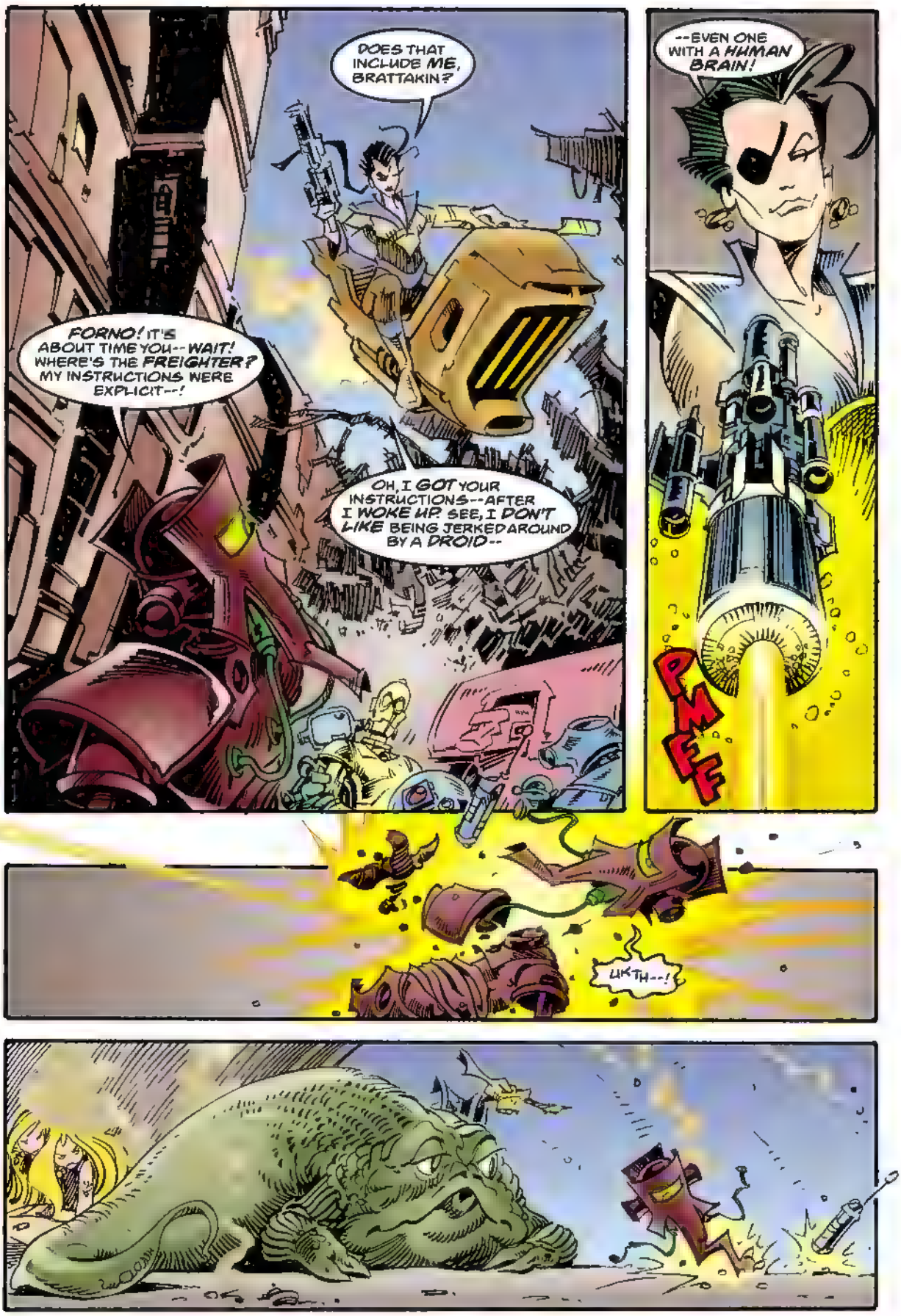

WELL, IF IT ISN'T OLAG GRECK! I MUST ADMIT, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO TURN UP HERE. BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES LIFE SO MUCH FUN ...
... YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!
WHO ARE YOU?! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
IT... IT'S B-9D7! I TOLD HIM TO STAY WITH THE SHIP!
AH, THREEPIO-- DECEIVED BY APPEARANCES! YOU SHOULD TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOURSELF!
YOU SEE, YOUR NEW LEG CONTAINS AN INITIATIVE SUB-MODULE, DESIGNED TO LINK WITH YOUR PRIMARY PERFORMANCE BANKS.
ON THE DRONE BARGE, THE MEMORY-WIPE COUNTDOWN ACTIVATED THE SUBMODULE, AND YOU WERE REPROGRAMMED TO BRING THE BARGE TO BOONDA!
OH-- I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT YOUR LEG ALSO CONTAINS A SLEEPER BOMB!
DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO SLITHER AWAY, BOONDA. WITH ONE SIGNAL, I CAN BLOW YOUR FORTRESS OFF THE MAP!
I ... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! EVERYTHING YOU SAID ABOUT MOVO BRATTAKIN--
YOU FOOL. I AM MOVO BRATTAKIN!


BUT--BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MOVO'S DEAD!
THANKS TO YOU, OLAG FORTUNATELY, MY PERSONAL ASSISTANT, B-907, KNEW WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT MY BODY WAS DESTROYED
I ADMIT, IT GETS A BIT COLD IN HERE, BUT THE OLD BRATTAKIN BRAIN HAS NEVER FELT BETTER! NOW, ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU OF MY PLAN!
I HAVE ACQUIRED HUNDREDS OF PROTOCOL DROIDS IN SEVERAL MINUTES, YOUR OLD FRIEND JACE FORNO WILL DELIVER THEM BY FREIGHTER.
"IN BOONDA'S FACTORY, THE PROTOCOL DROIDS WILL BE CONVERTED INTO EMISSARIES OF DOOM! BOONDA WOULD HAVE REFUSED TO TAKE PART IN SUCH A VENTURE, SO I ORCHESTRATED THIS INFILTRATION!"
I ALLIED MYSELF WITH THE R2 UNIT TO MAINTAIN THE SECRECY OF THE PLAN AND MY MOVEMENTS-- BUT I DIGRESS. YOU WILL WORK FOR ME... OR PERISH!
MOVO! I NEVER MEANT TO... UH, KILL YOU! CAN'T WE NEGOTIATE?
NEGOTIATE WITH YOU, OLAG? HA! AFTER I'VE DISTRIBUTED THE PROTOCOL PROGRAM TRAPS, I'LL CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE SECTOR--
AAARGH!
VWOOOM

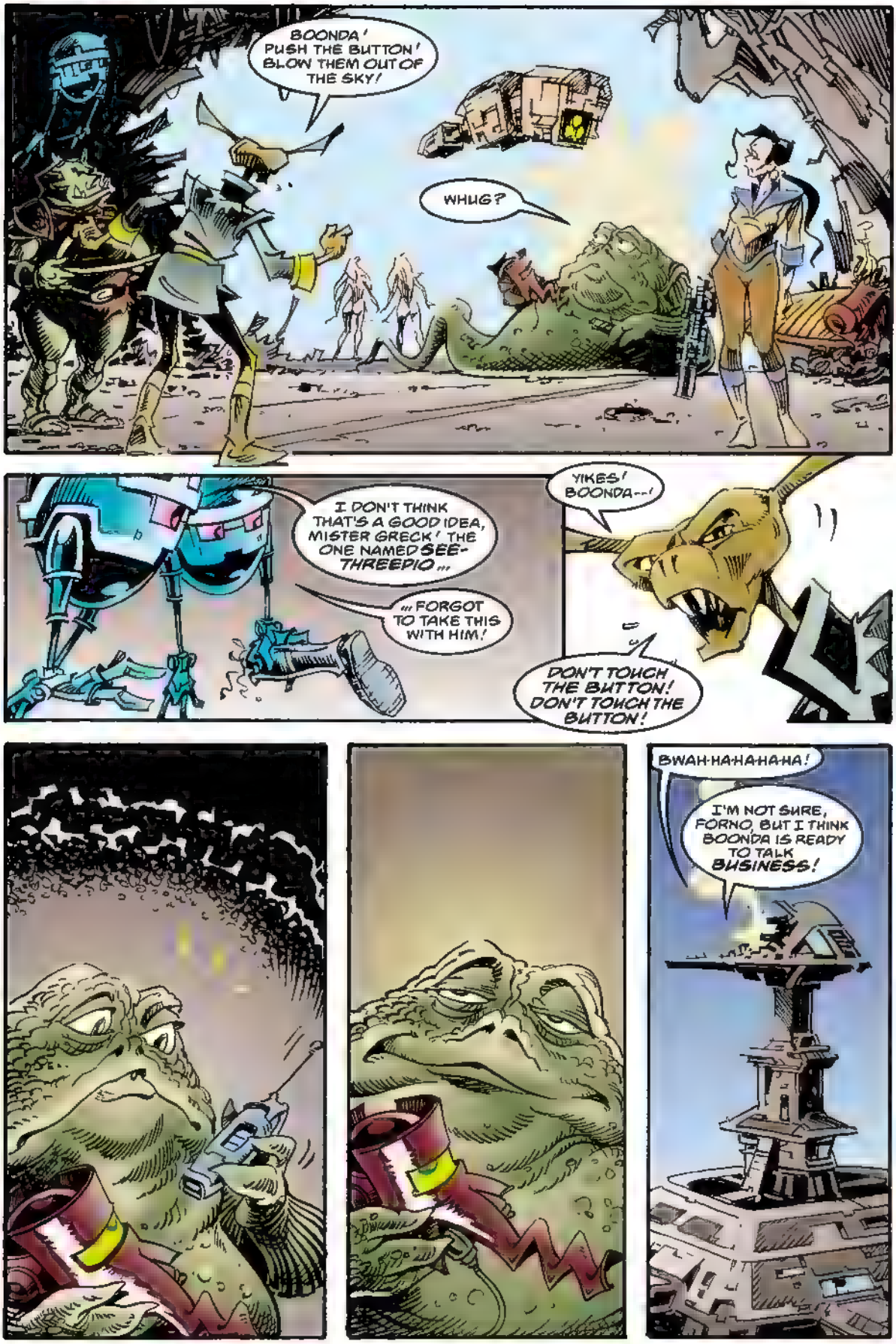

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THIS LOUSY--!
PWEEP!

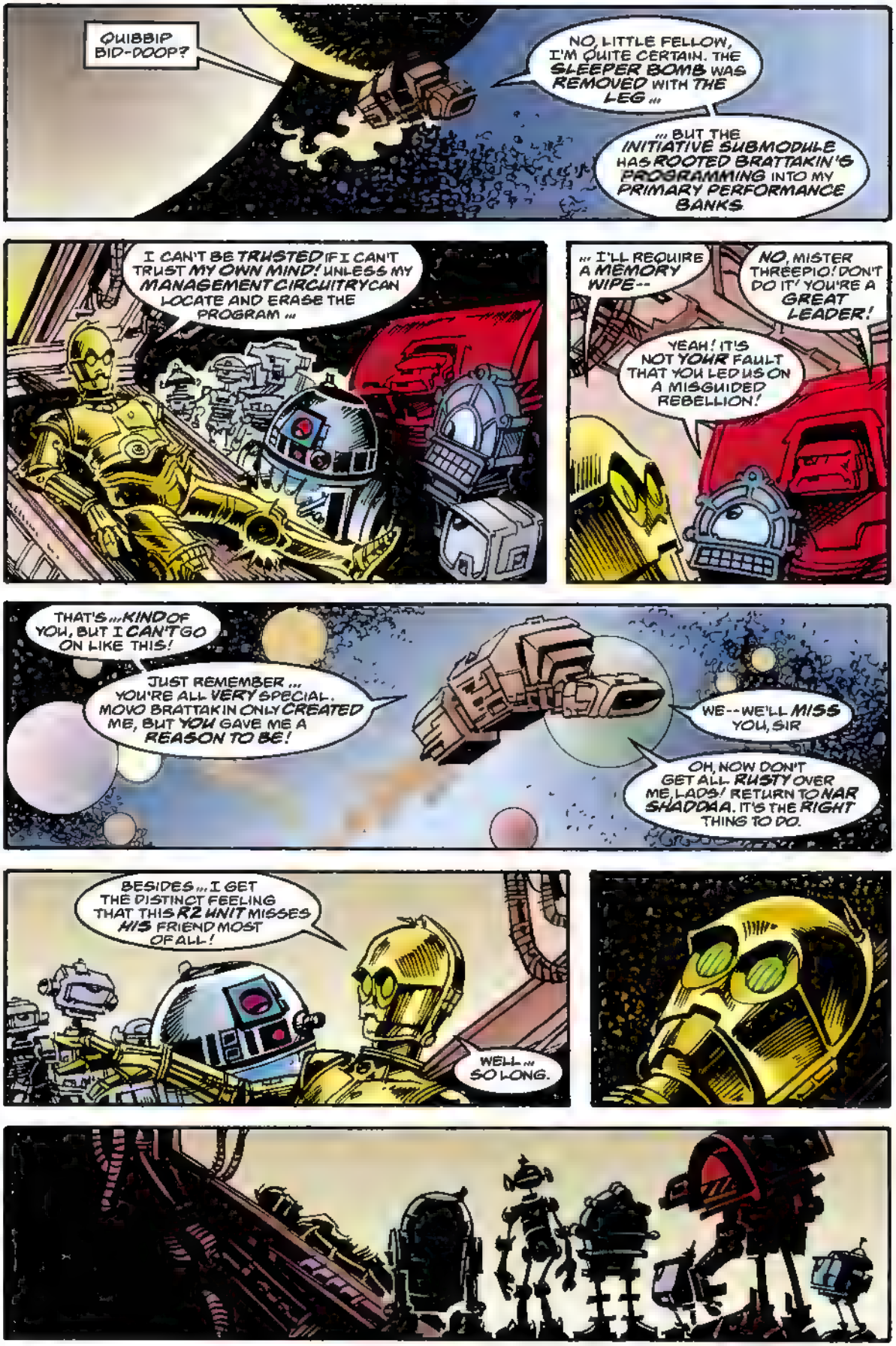

WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED?
SOUNDS LIKE A SHIP TAKING OFF! IT ALSO SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA!
KA-CHOOM
AAGH!

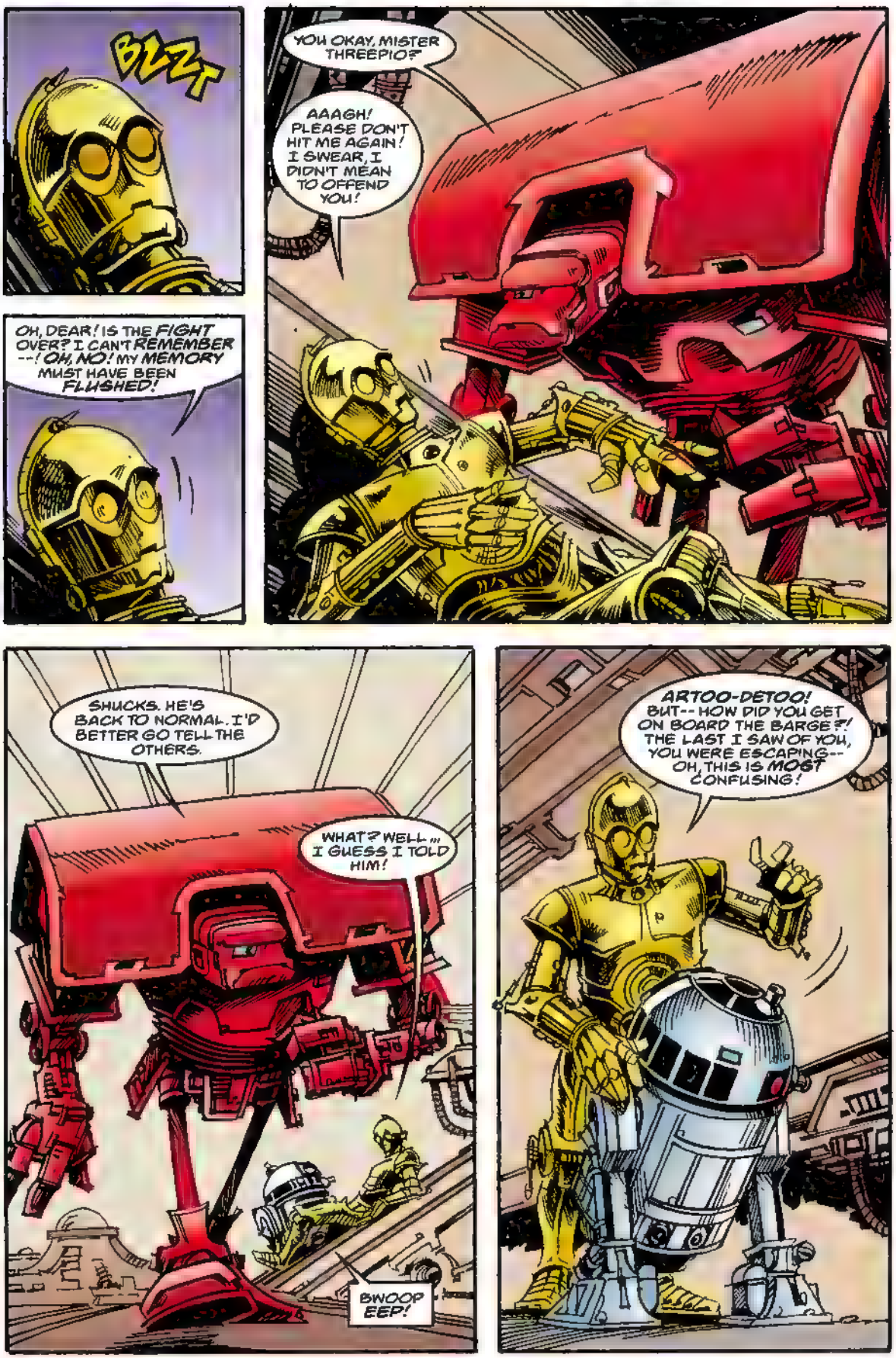

WOO-BEEP!
LOOK, LADS! IT'S THAT PLUCKY R2! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE'D COME TO OUR-- OHCH! LET GO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?!
PWEEEP OP-OP, BOO PWIP DIPP!
SORRY! I'D FORGOTTEN! OF COURSE, REMOVE IT AT ONCE!
THANK THE MAKER, YOU STOPPED B-9D7!
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO, YOU INSIPID MEDDLER !!!
!!! IS REFER TO ME AS MISTER BRATTAKIN!
ANYBODY MOVES-- EVERY-BODY DIES!

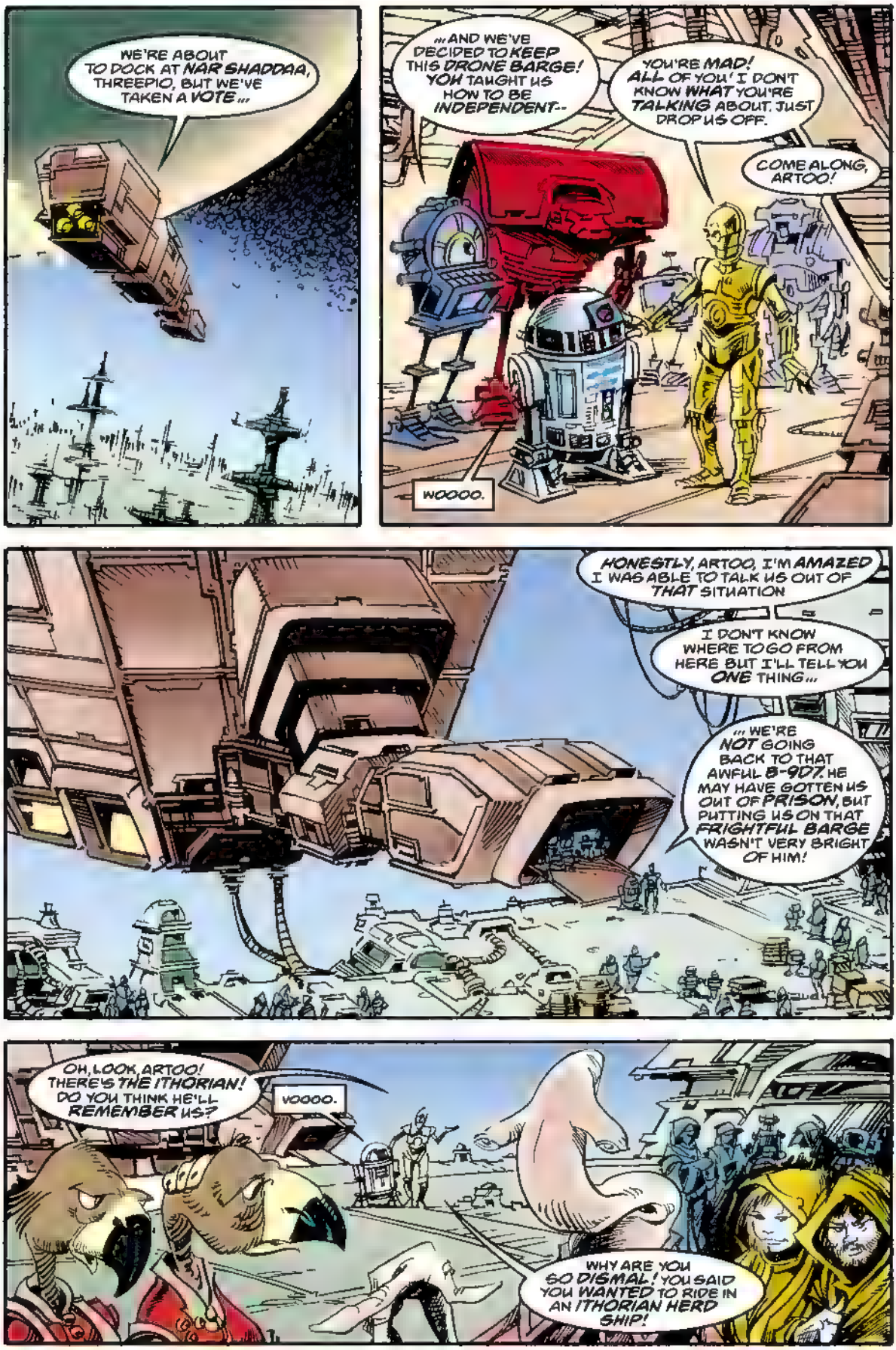

DOES THAT INCLUDE ME, BRATTAKIN?
FORNO! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU-- WAIT! WHERE'S THE FREIGHTER? MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE EXPLICIT--!
OH, I GOT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS--AFTER I WOKE UP. SEE, I DON'T LIKE BEING JERKED AROUND BY A DROID--
--EVEN ONE WITH A HUMAN BRAIN!
PMFF
LIKTH--!

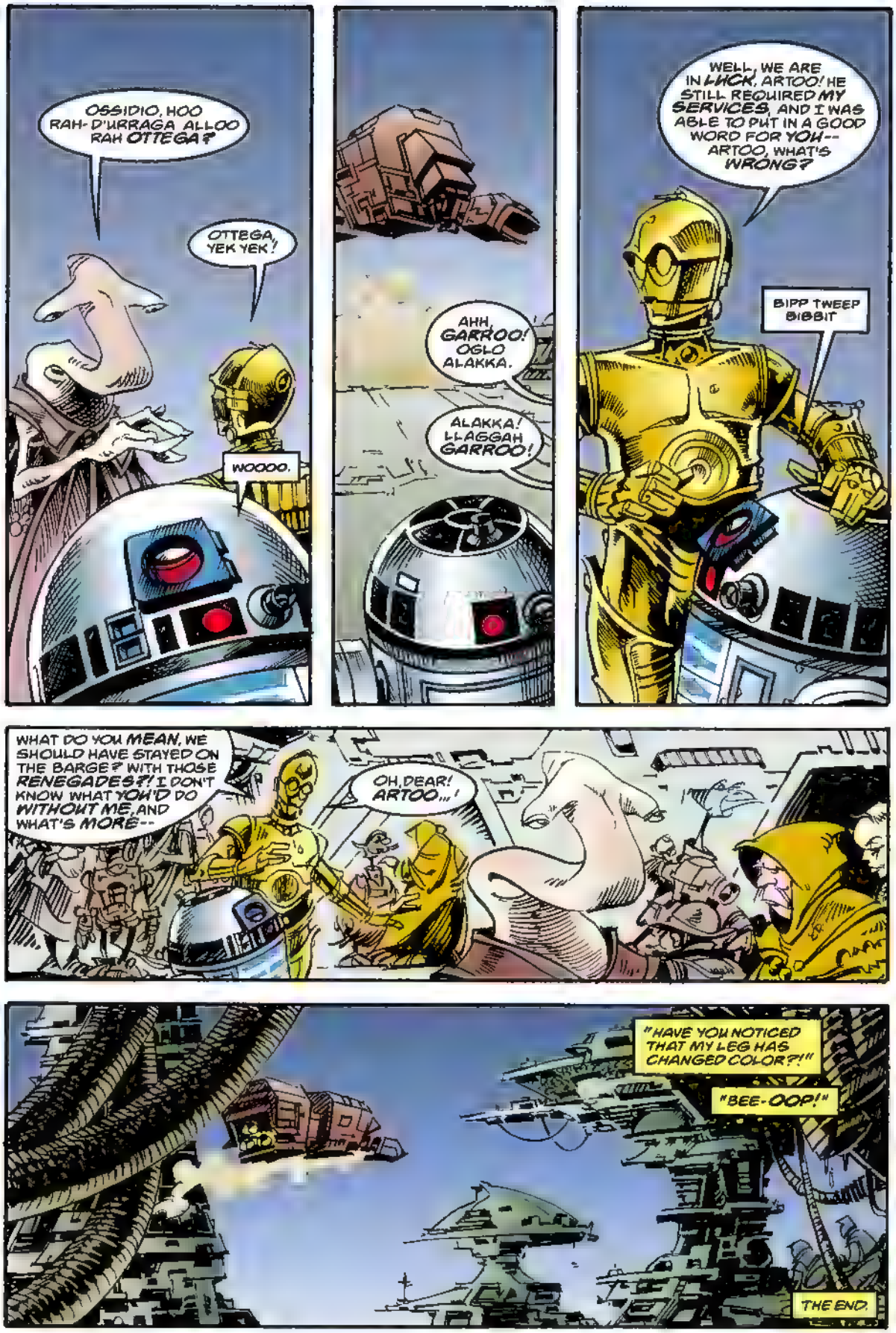
WELL, HELLO, OLAG! YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM NAR SHADDAA!
FORNO! YOU COULD HAVE KILLED US ALL!
GRATEFUL AS EVER, EH, OLAG? MAYBE BOONDA WILL HIRE ME. I HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE BRATTAKIN'S PROTOCOL DROIDS ARE STASHED--
WHAT?! THEN... YOU'LL WORK FOR ME, FORNO! ALLOW ME TO HANDLE THE BUSINESS END WITH BOONDA, AND YOU'LL RECEIVE A BONUS--
RUMBLE
WHAT THE--?!

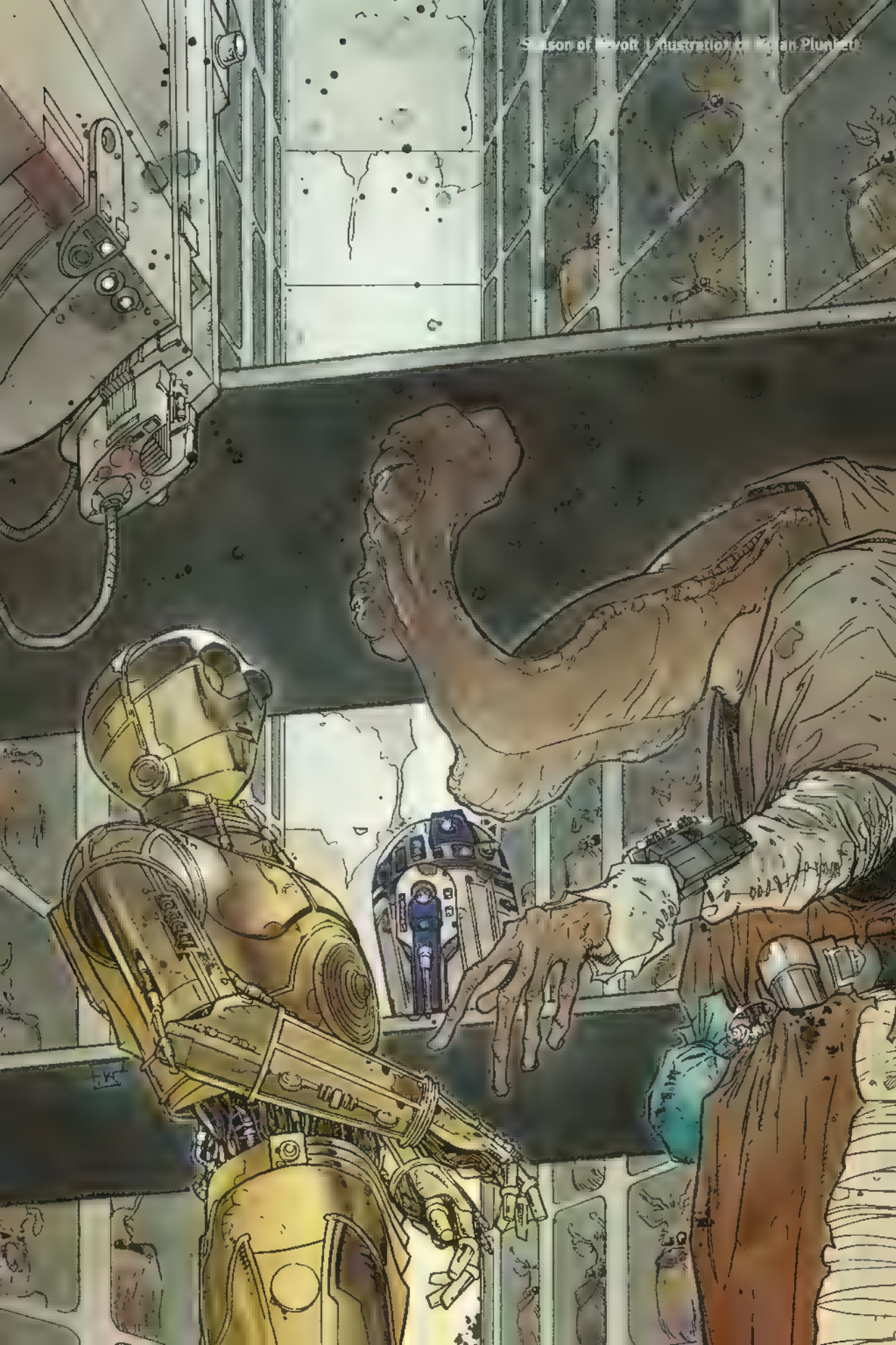

BOONDA! PUSH THE BUTTON! BLOW THEM OUT OF THE SKY!
WHUG?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, MISTER GRECK! THE ONE NAMED SEE-THREEPIO...
...FORGOT TO TAKE THIS WITH HIM!
YIKES! BOONDA--!
DON'T TOUCH THE BUTTON! DON'T TOUCH THE BUTTON!
BWAH-HA-HA-HA-HA!
I'M NOT SURE, FORNO, BUT I THINK BOONDA IS READY TO TALK BUSINESS!


QUIBBIP BID-DOOP?
NO, LITTLE FELLOW, I'M QUITE CERTAIN. THE SLEEPER BOMB WAS REMOVED WITH THE LEG ...
... BUT THE INITIATIVE SUBMODULE HAS ROOTED BRATTAKIN'S PROGRAMMING INTO MY PRIMARY PERFORMANCE BANKS.
I CAN'T BE TRUSTED IF I CAN'T TRUST MY OWN MIND! UNLESS MY MANAGEMENT CIRCUITRY CAN LOCATE AND ERASE THE PROGRAM ...
... I'LL REQUIRE A MEMORY WIPE--
NO, MISTER THREEPIO! DON'T DO IT! YOU'RE A GREAT LEADER!
YEAH! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT YOU LED US ON A MISGUIDED REBELLION!
THAT'S ... KIND OF YOU, BUT I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
JUST REMEMBER ... YOU'RE ALL VERY SPECIAL. MOVO BRATTAKIN ONLY CREATED ME, BUT YOU GAVE ME A REASON TO BE!
WE--WE'LL MISS YOU, SIR
OH, NOW DON'T GET ALL RUSTY OVER ME, LADS! RETURN TO NAR SHADDAA. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
BESIDES ... I GET THE DISTINCT FEELING THAT THIS R2 UNIT MISSES HIS FRIEND MOST OF ALL!
WELL ... SO LONG.


BLZZT
YOU OKAY, MISTER THREEPIO?
AAAGH! PLEASE DON'T HIT ME AGAIN! I SWEAR, I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU!
OH, DEAR! IS THE FIGHT OVER? I CAN'T REMEMBER --! OH, NO! MY MEMORY MUST HAVE BEEN FLUSHED!
SHUCKS. HE'S BACK TO NORMAL. I'D BETTER GO TELL THE OTHERS.
WHAT? WELL... I GUESS I TOLD HIM!
BWOOP EEP!
ARTOO-DETOO! BUT-- HOW DID YOU GET ON BOARD THE BARGE?! THE LAST I SAW OF YOU, YOU WERE ESCAPING-- OH, THIS IS MOST CONFUSING!


WE'RE ABOUT TO DOCK AT NAR SHADDAA, THREEPIO, BUT WE'VE TAKEN A VOTE...
...AND WE'VE DECIDED TO KEEP THIS DRONE BARGE! YOH TAUGHT US HOW TO BE INDEPENDENT--
YOU'RE MAD! ALL OF YOU! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. JUST DROP US OFF.
COME ALONG, ARTOO!
WOOOO.
HONESTLY, ARTOO, I'M AMAZED I WAS ABLE TO TALK US OUT OF THAT SITUATION
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO FROM HERE BUT I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING...
...WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THAT AWFUL 8-9D7. HE MAY HAVE GOTTEN US OUT OF PRISON, BUT PUTTING US ON THAT FRIGHTFUL BARGE WASN'T VERY BRIGHT OF HIM!
OH, LOOK, ARTOO! THERE'S THE ITHORIAN! DO YOU THINK HE'LL REMEMBER US?
VOOOO.
WHY ARE YOU SO DISMAL! YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO RIDE IN AN ITHORIAN HERD SHIP!


OSSIDIO, HOO RAH-D'URRAGA ALLOO RAH OTTEGA?
OTTEGA, YEK YEK!
WOOOO.
AHH, GARROO! OGLO ALAKKA.
ALAKKA! LLAGGAH GARROO!
WELL, WE ARE IN LUCK, ARTOO! HE STILL REQUIRED MY SERVICES, AND I WAS ABLE TO PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU-- ARTOO, WHAT'S WRONG?
BIPP TWEEP BIBBIT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED ON THE BARGE? WITH THOSE RENEGADES?! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'D DO WITHOUT ME, AND WHAT'S MORE--
OH, DEAR! ARTOO...!
"HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT MY LEG HAS CHANGED COLOR?!"
"BEE-OOP!"
THE END.



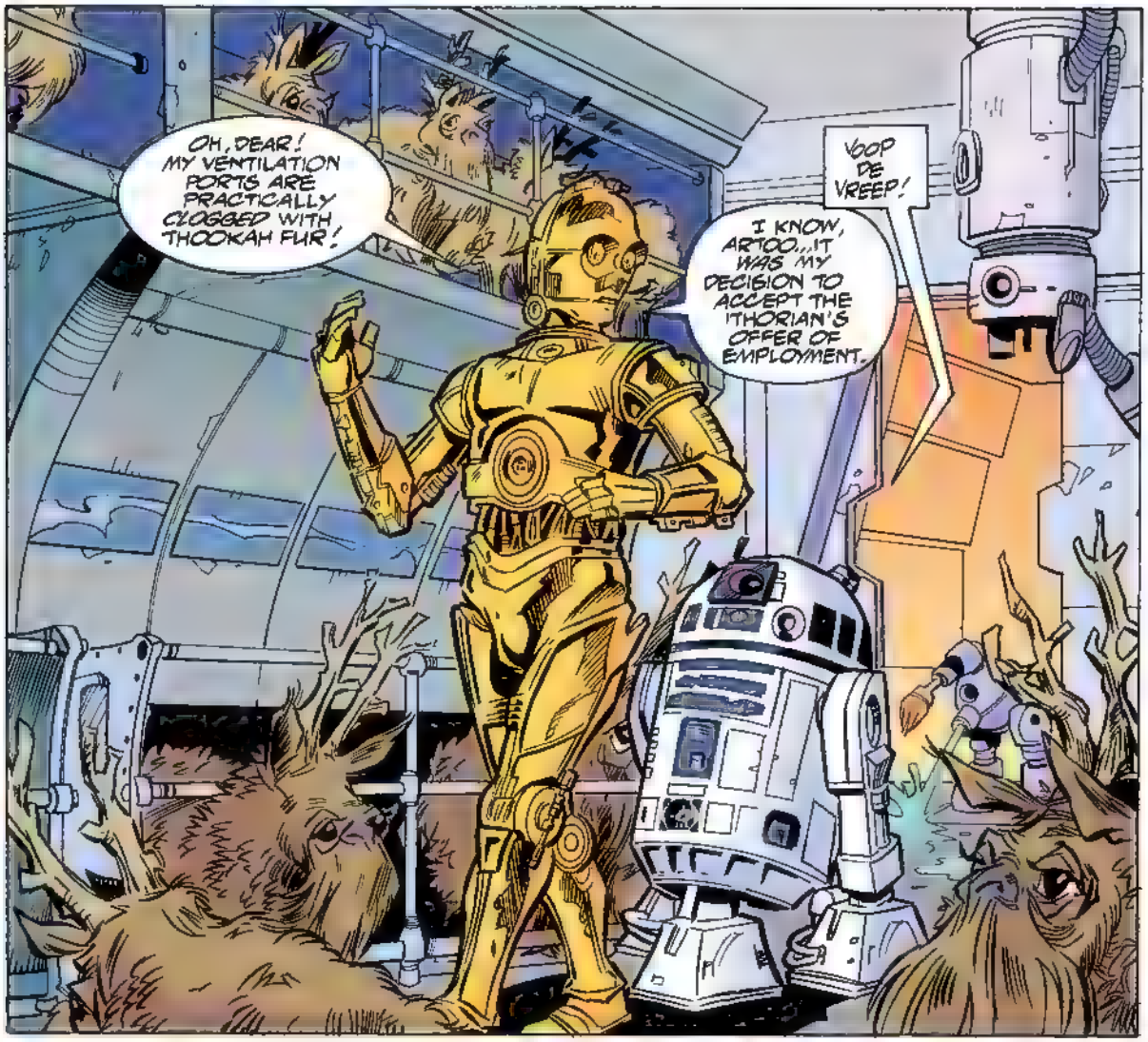
script by Jan Strnad

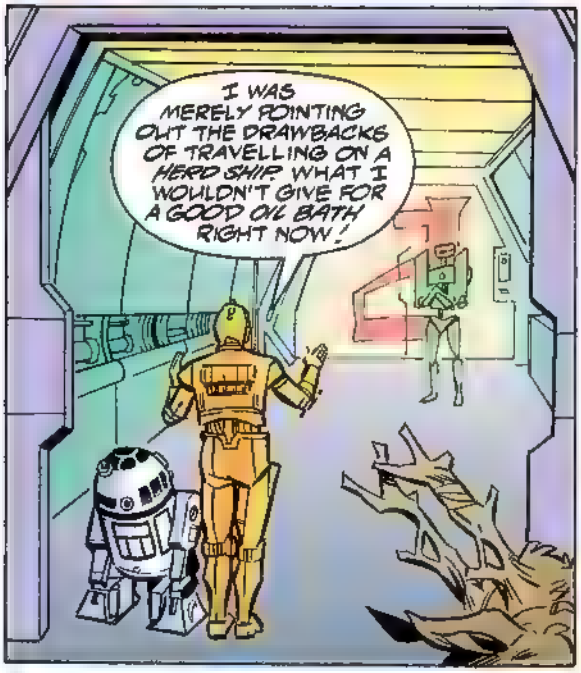
pencils by Bill Hughes

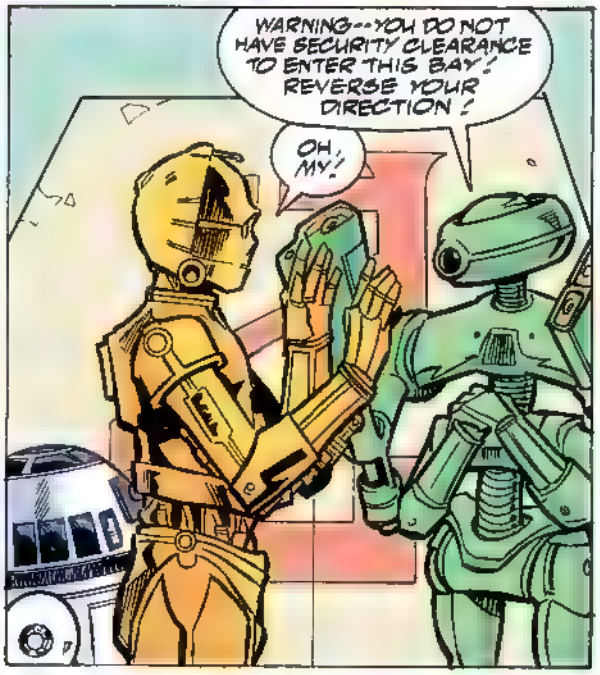
inks by Keith Williams, Rich Perrotta

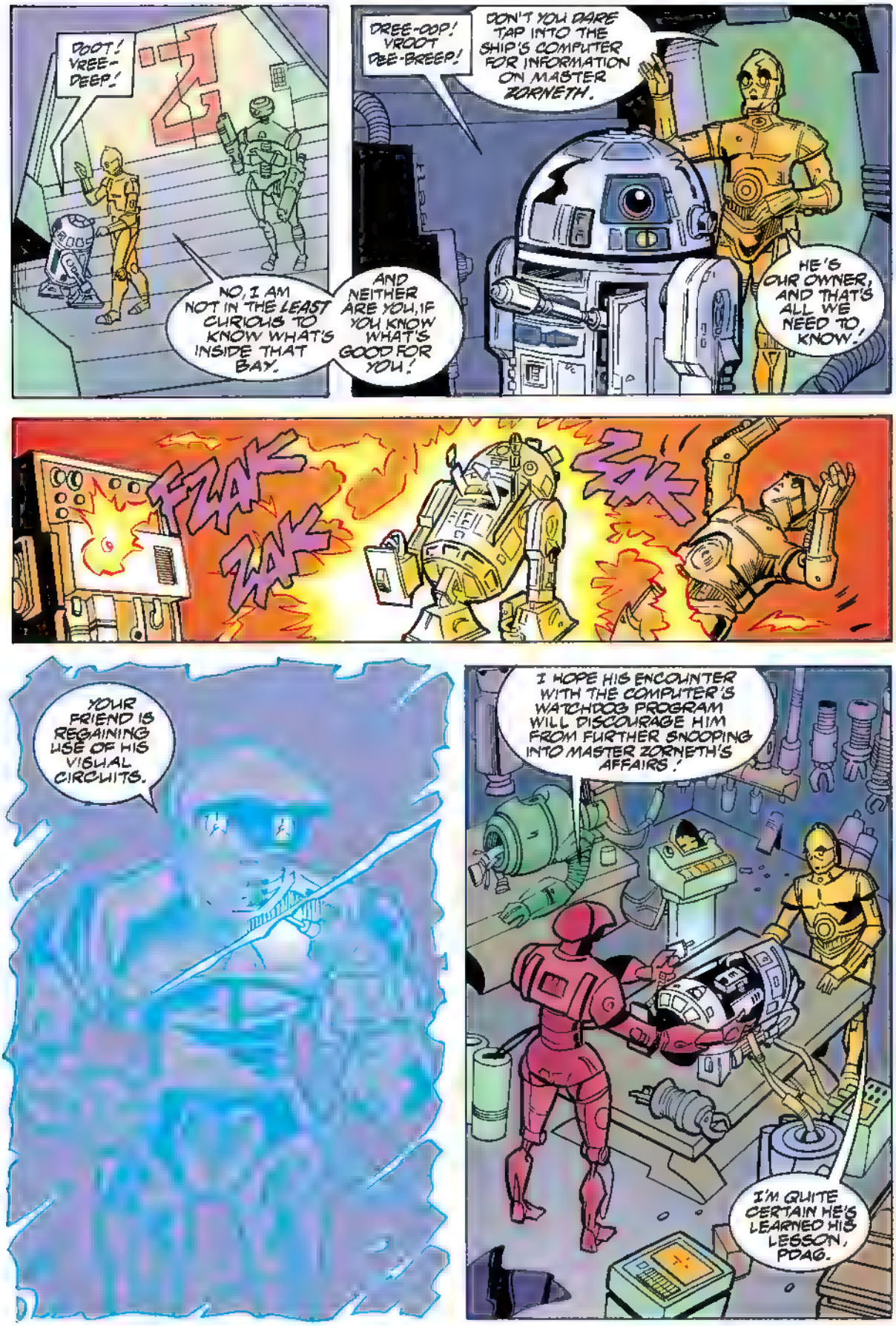
colors by Perry McNamee, Chris Chalenor

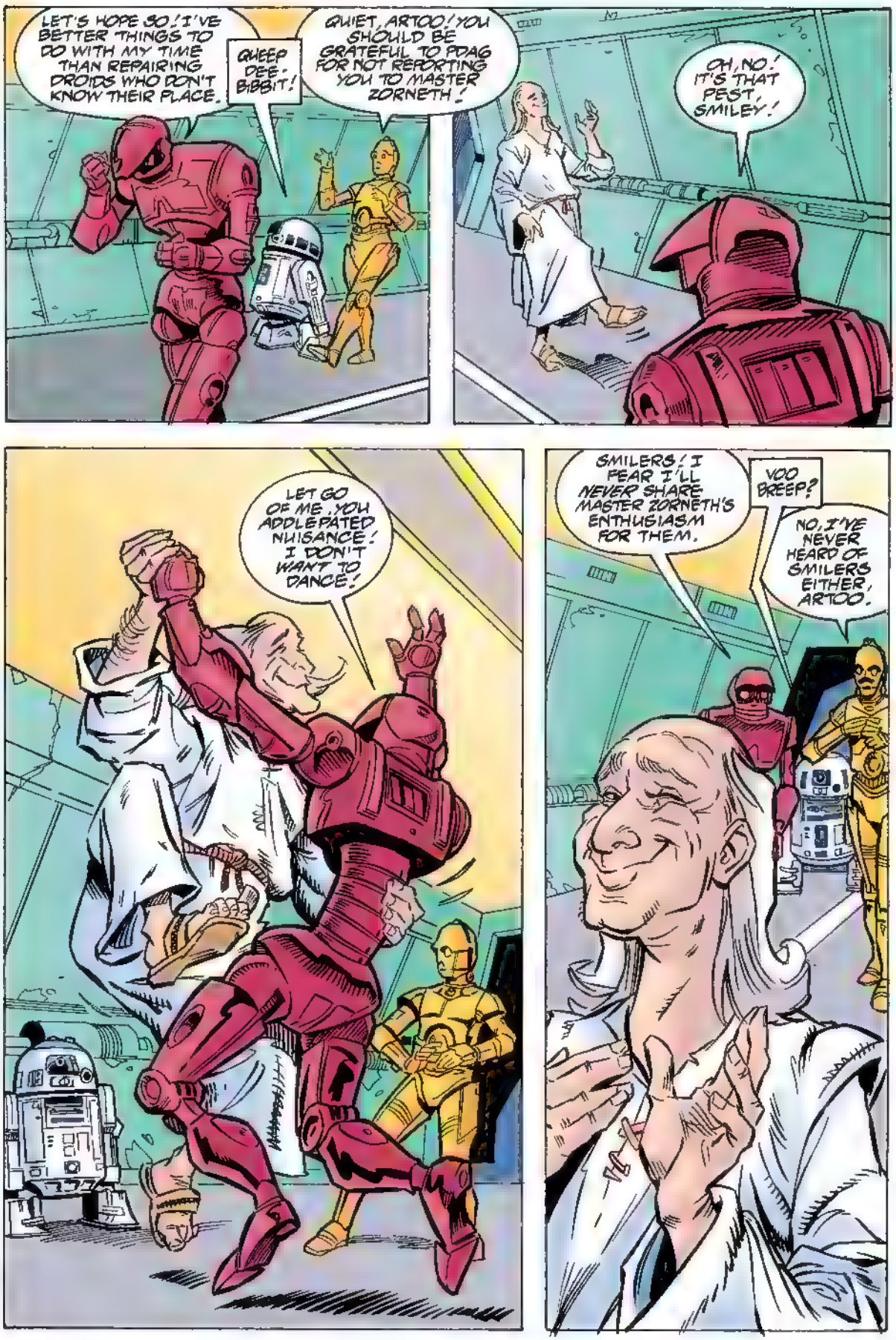
letters by Steve Dutro


OH, DEAR! MY VENTILATION PORTS ARE PRACTICALLY CLOGGED WITH THOOKAH FUR!
I KNOW, ARTOO... IT WAS MY DECISION TO ACCEPT THE ITHORIAN'S OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT.
VOOP DE VREEP!

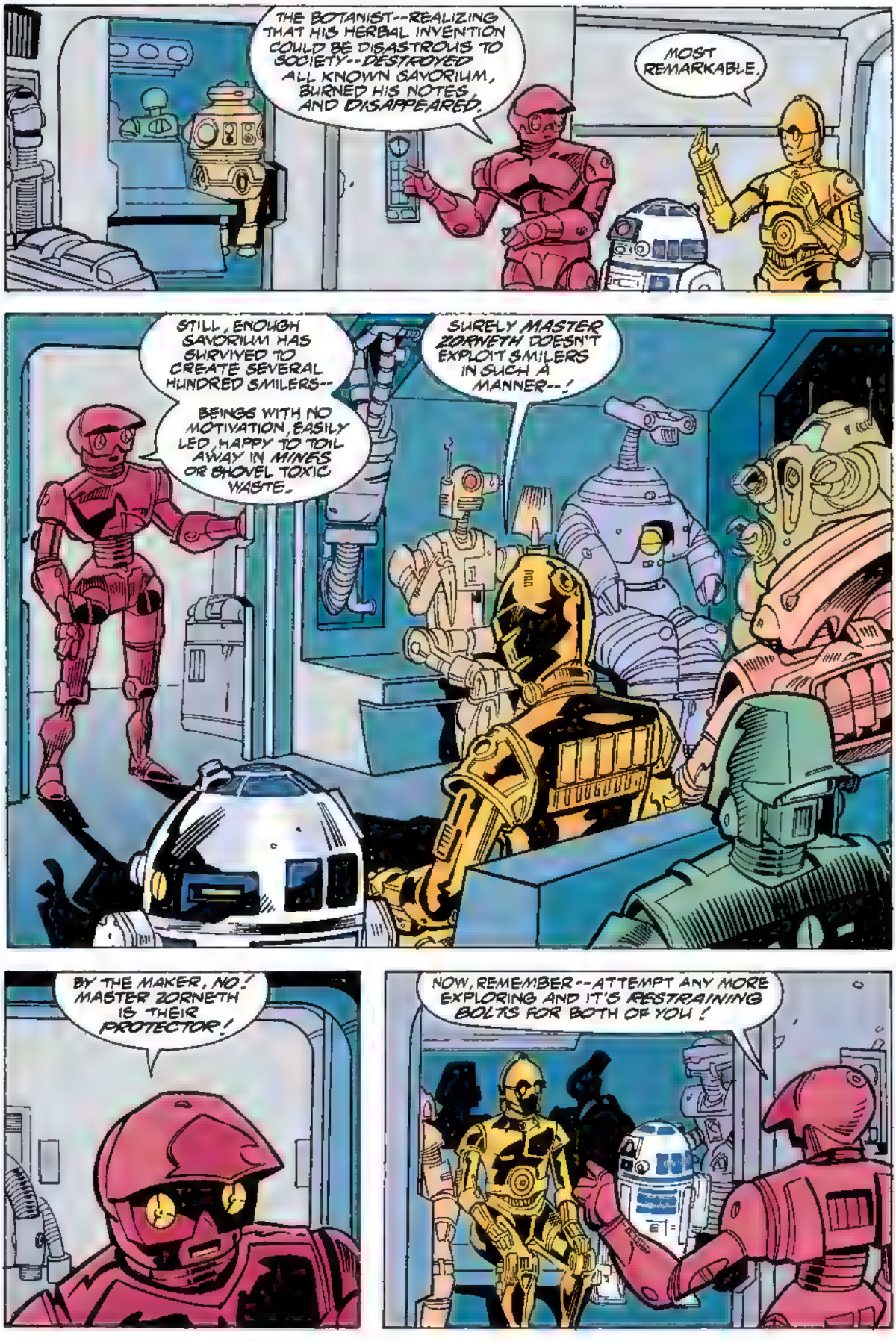

I WAS MERELY POINTING OUT THE DRAWBACKS OF TRAVELLING ON A HERD SHIP. WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A GOOD OIL BATH RIGHT NOW!

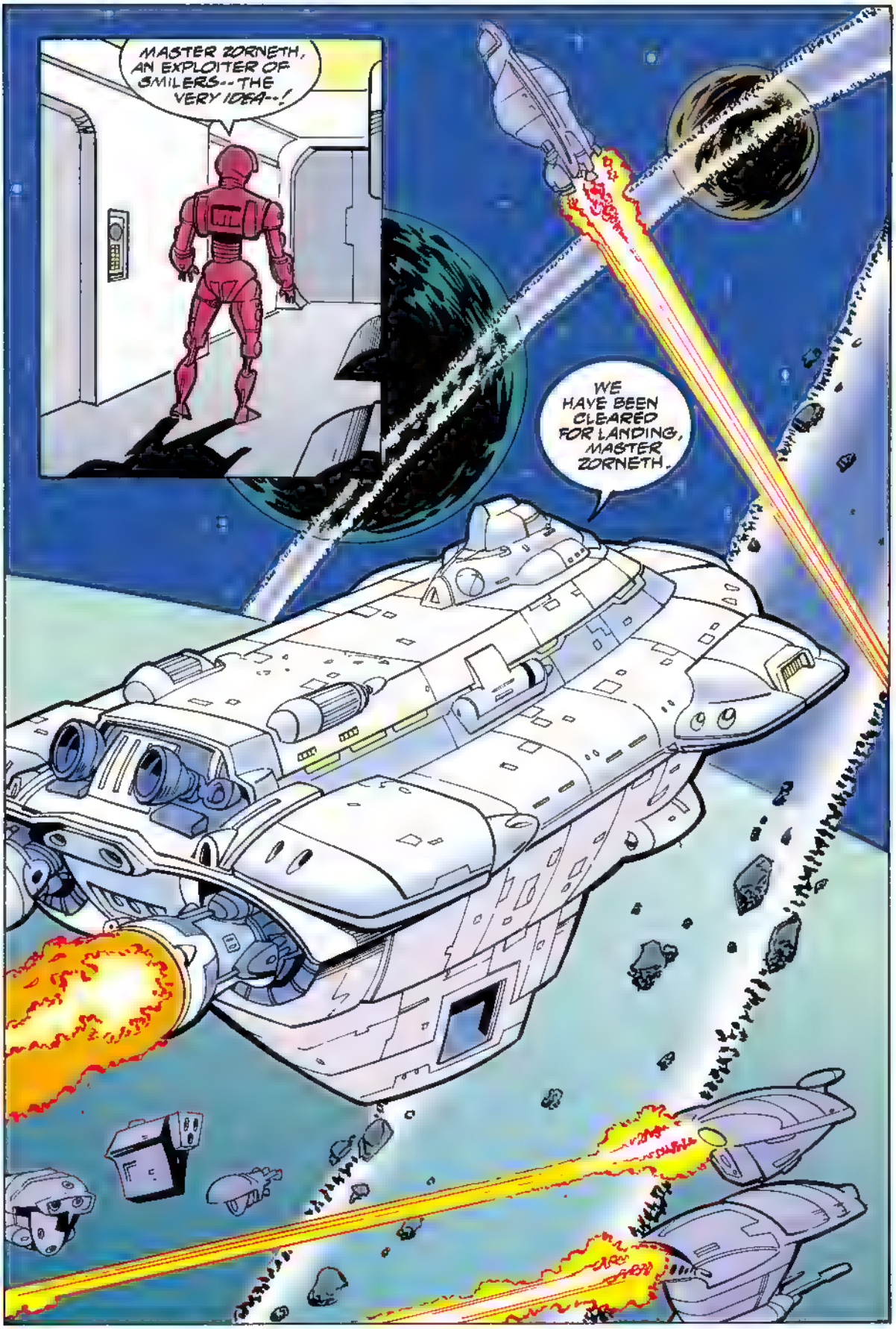

WARNING--YOU DO NOT HAVE SECURITY CLEARANCE TO ENTER THIS BAY! REVERSE YOUR DIRECTION!
OH, MY!

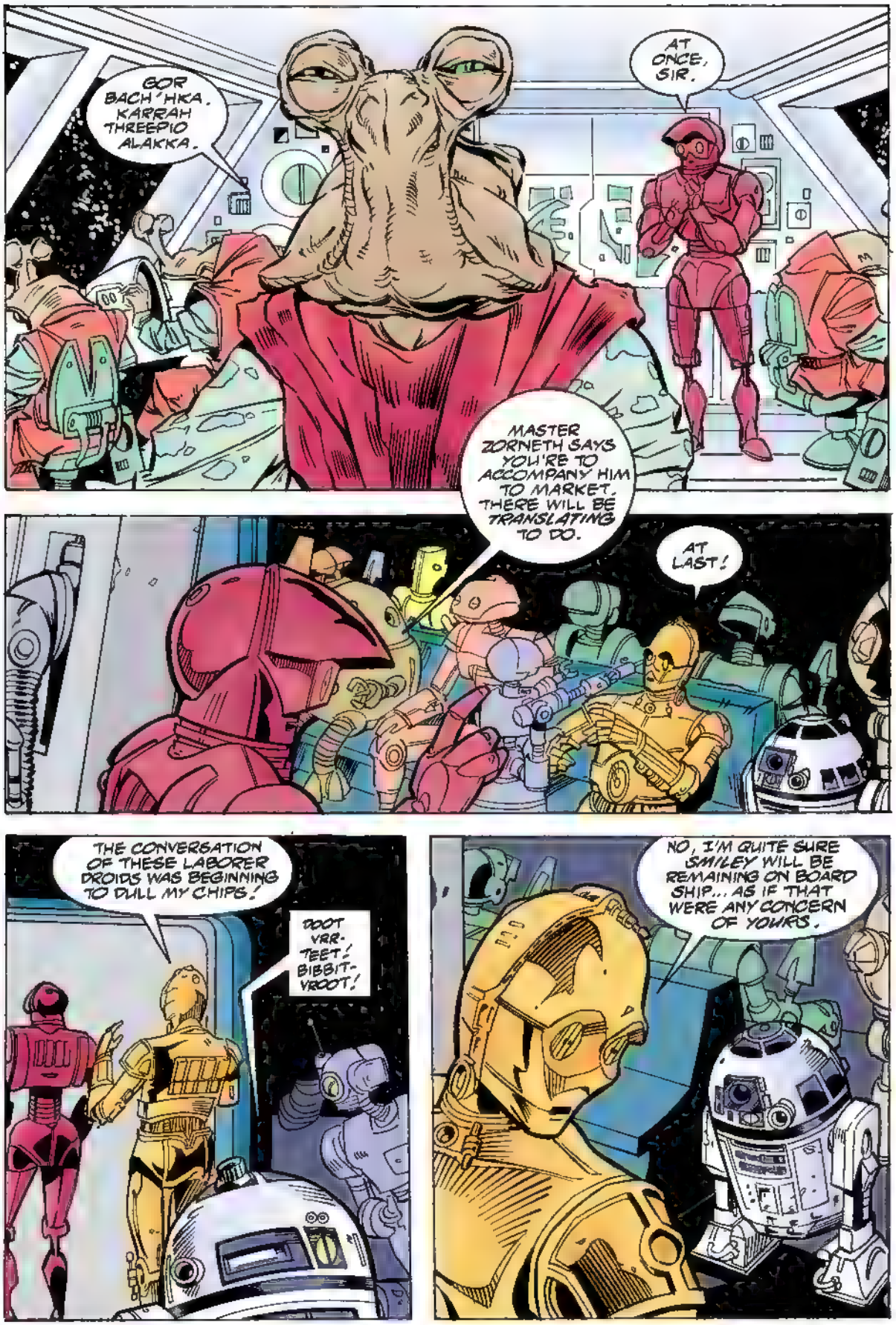

DOOT! VREE-DEEP!
NO, I AM NOT IN THE LEAST CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE THAT BAY.
AND NEITHER ARE YOU, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!
DREE-OOP! VROOT DEE-BREEP!
DON'T YOU DARE TAP INTO THE SHIP'S COMPUTER FOR INFORMATION ON MASTER ZORNETH.
HE'S OUR OWNER, AND THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO KNOW!
FZAK
ZAK
ZAK
YOUR FRIEND IS REGAINING USE OF HIS VISUAL CIRCUITS.
I HOPE HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE COMPUTER'S WATCHDOG PROGRAM WILL DISCOURAGE HIM FROM FURTHER SNOOPING INTO MASTER ZORNETH'S AFFAIRS.
I'M QUITE CERTAIN HE'S LEARNED HIS LESSON, PDAG.

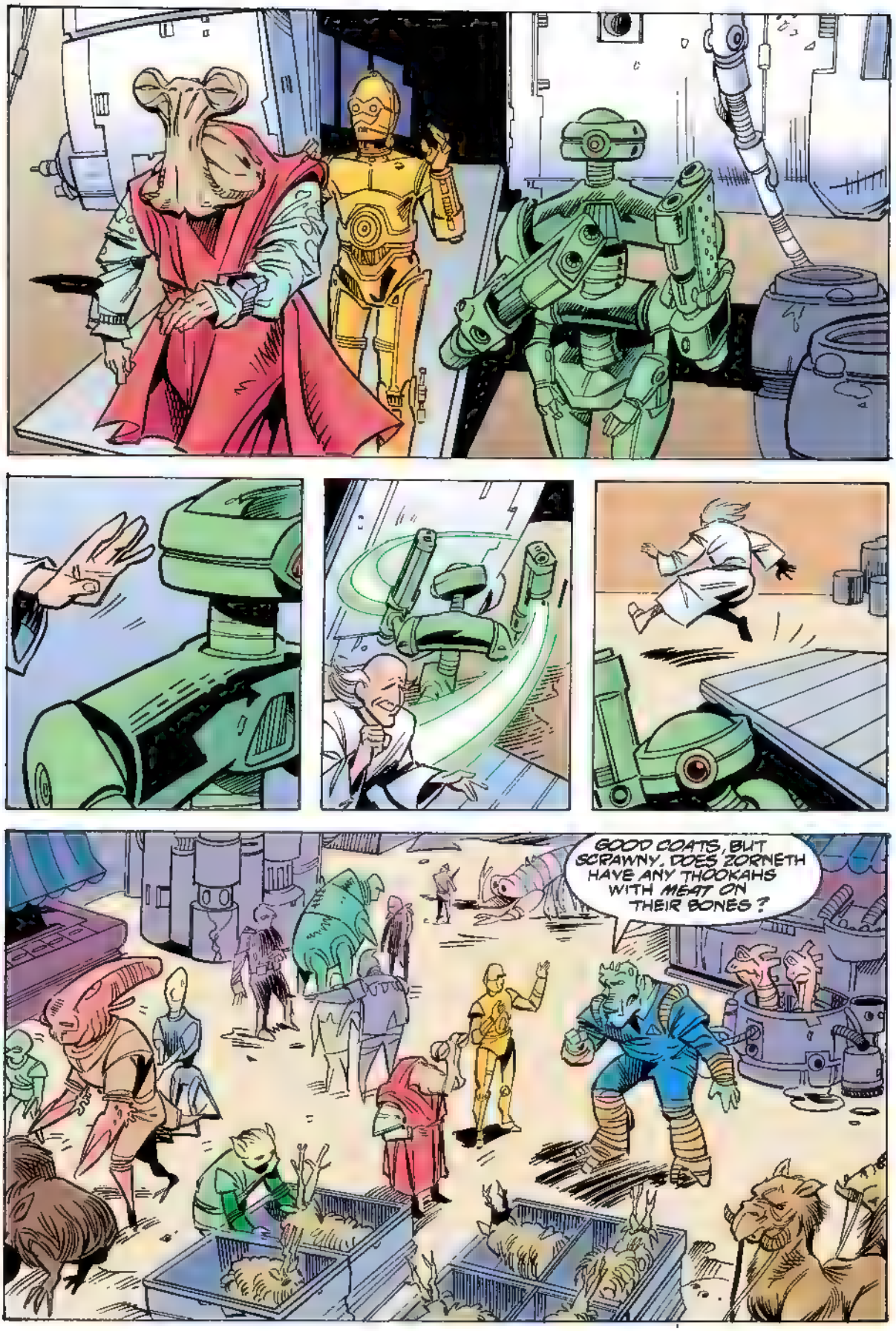

LET'S HOPE SO! I'VE BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY TIME THAN REPAIRING DROIDS WHO DON'T KNOW THEIR PLACE.
QUEEP DEE-BIBBIT!
QUIET, ARTOO! YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO PDAG FOR NOT REPORTING YOU TO MASTER ZORNETH!
OH, NO! IT'S THAT PEST, SMILEY!
LET GO OF ME, YOU ADDLEPATED NUISANCE! I DON'T WANT TO DANCE!
SMILERS! I FEAR I'LL NEVER SHARE MASTER ZORNETH'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THEM.
VOO BREEP?
NO, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SMILERS EITHER, ARTOO.

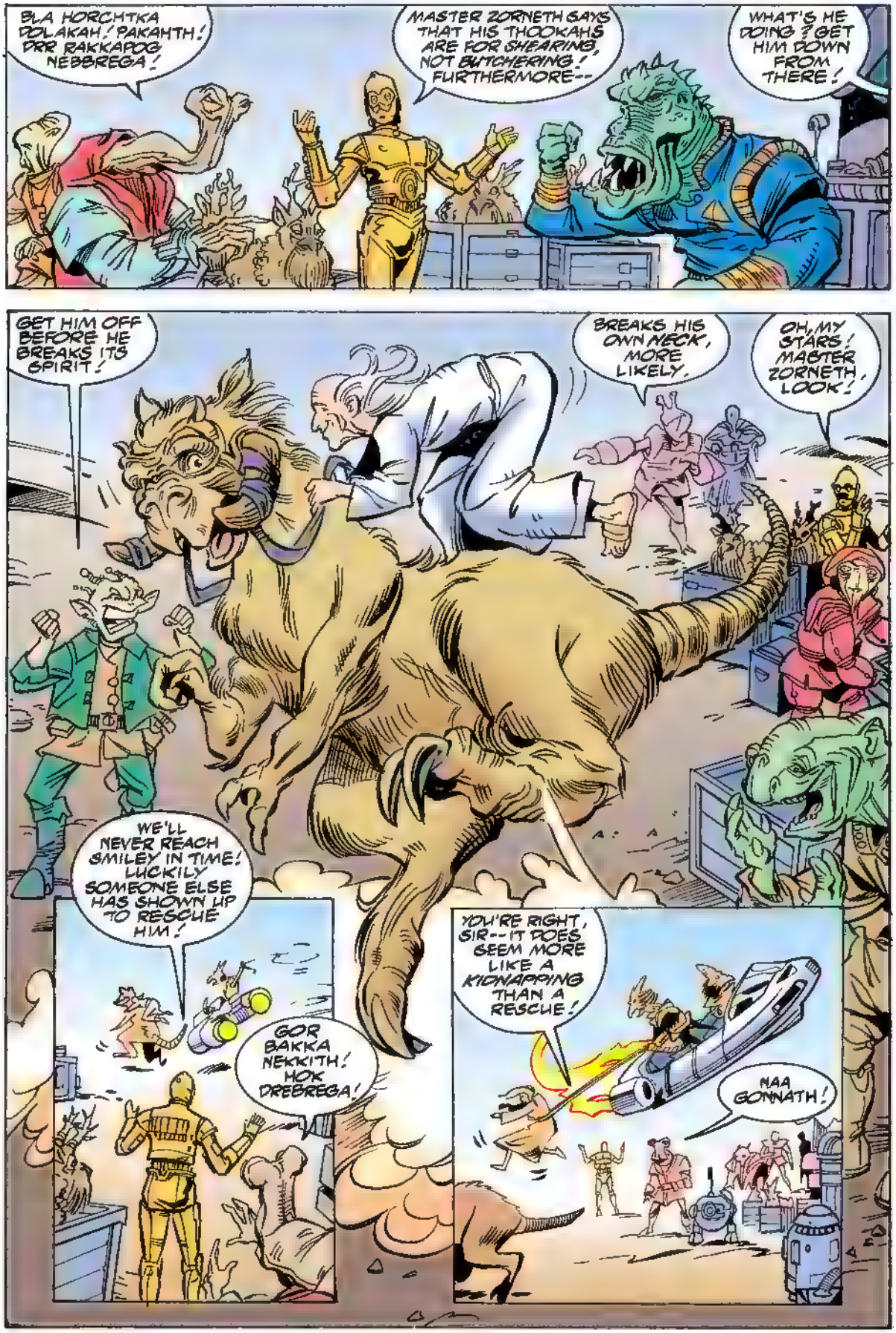
THEY ARE A RECENT PHENOMENON, BUT GROWING IN NUMBER. PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH ANY SITUATION, SMILERS ARE THE ONLY TRULY CONTENTED BEINGS IN THE GALAXY!
A RARE STATE FOR ORGANIC LIFE-FORMS, IN MY EXPERIENCE.
YES, AND NOT A NATURAL ONE.
A FEW YEARS AGO, A HUMAN BOTANIST DEVELOPED AN HERB HE CALLED "SAVORIUM." ORGANIC BEINGS FIND IT SO REMARKABLY DELICIOUS THAT--
"--ONE TASTE AND THEY ARE SEIZED BY TOTAL RAPTURE.
"THE EFFECT IS BOTH PROFOUND AND PERMANENT!"

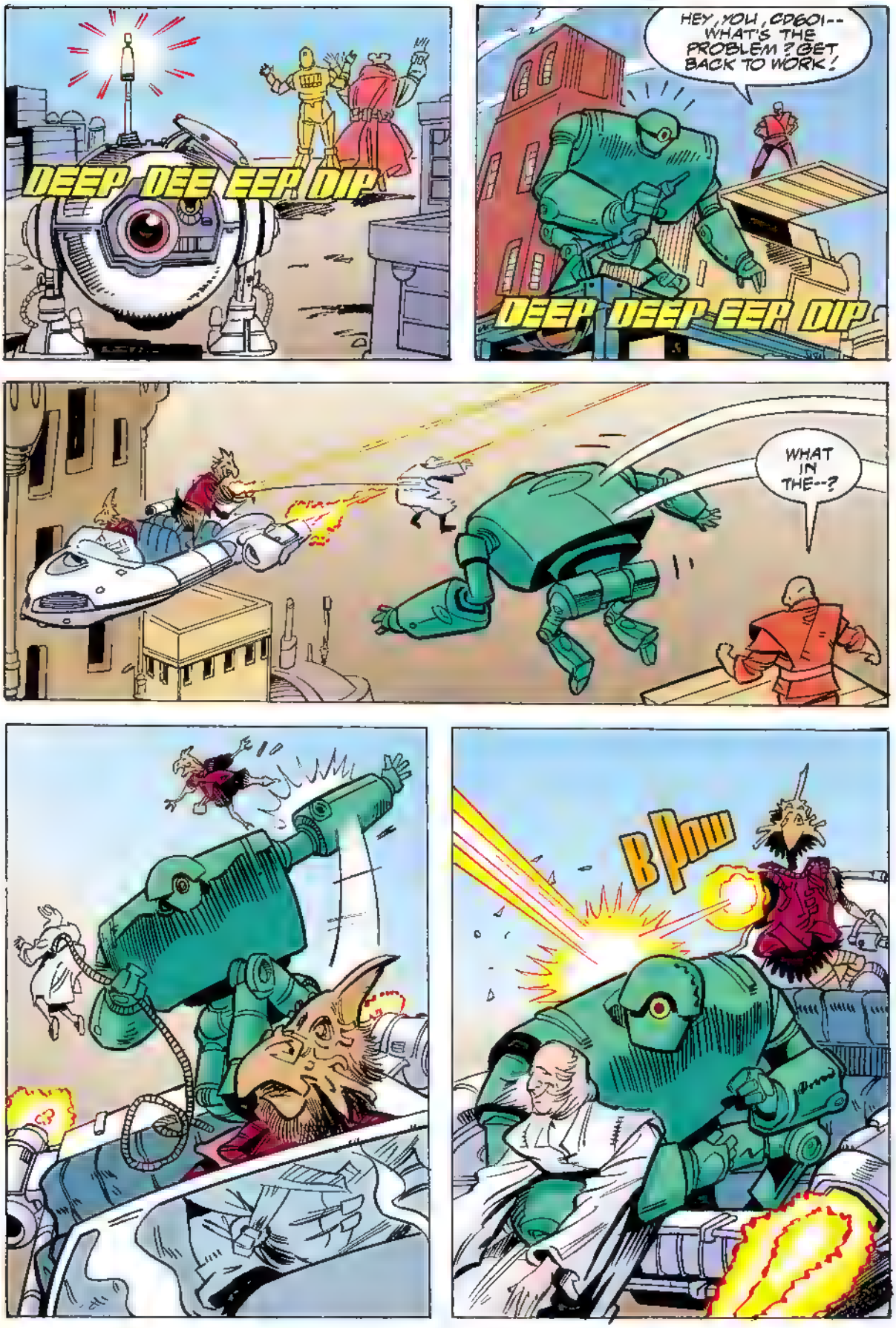

THE BOTANIST--REALIZING THAT HIS HERBAL INVENTION COULD BE DISASTROUS TO SOCIETY--DESTROYED ALL KNOWN SAVORIUM, BURNED HIS NOTES, AND DISAPPEARED.
MOST REMARKABLE.
STILL, ENOUGH SAVORIUM HAS SURVIVED TO CREATE SEVERAL HUNDRED SMILERS--
BEINGS WITH NO MOTIVATION, EASILY LED, HAPPY TO TOIL AWAY IN MINES OR SHOVEL TOXIC WASTE.
SURELY MASTER ZORNETH DOESN'T EXPLOIT SMILERS IN SUCH A MANNER--!
BY THE MAKER, NO! MASTER ZORNETH IS THEIR PROTECTOR!
NOW, REMEMBER--ATTEMPT ANY MORE EXPLORING AND IT'S RESTRAINING BOLTS FOR BOTH OF YOU!

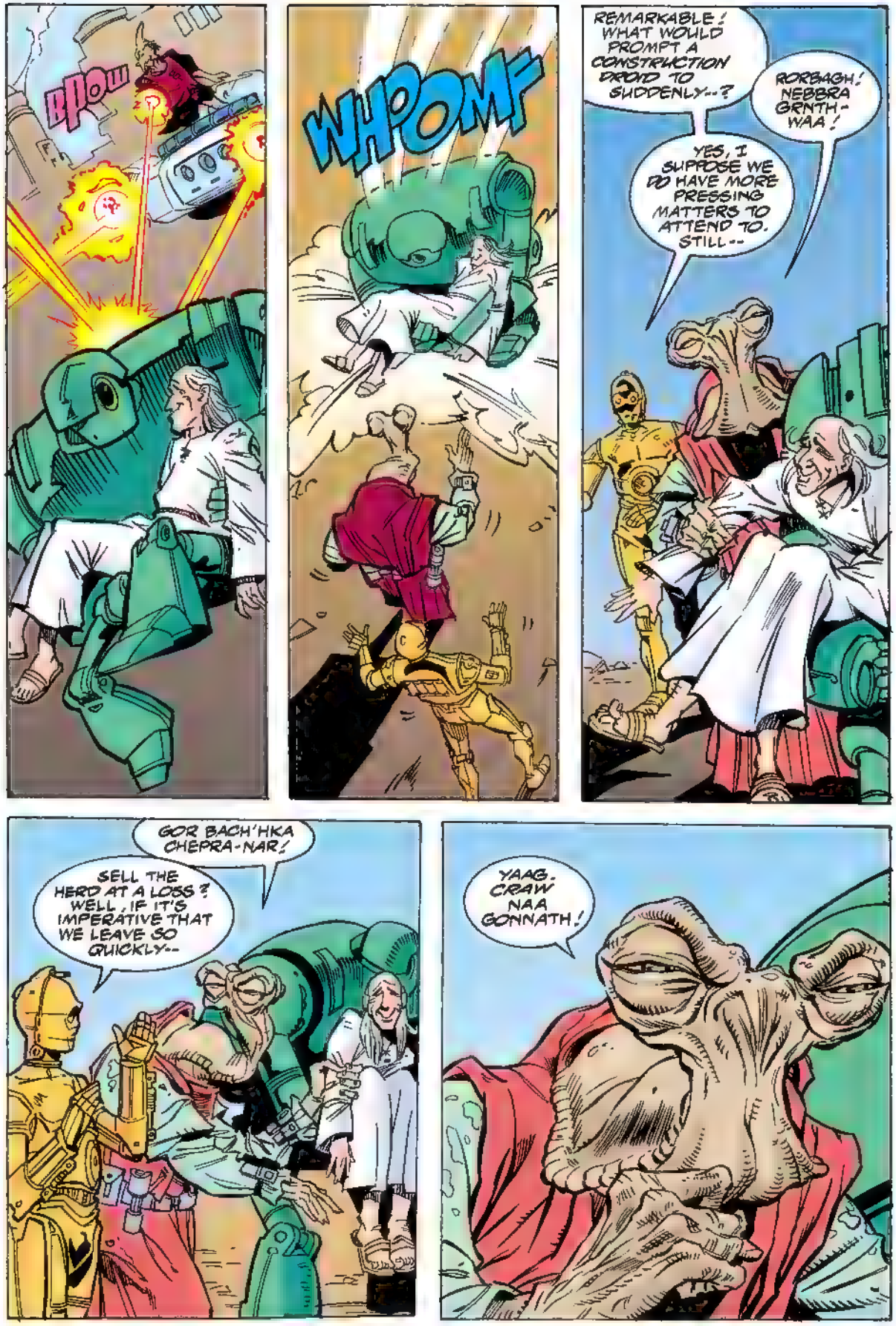

MASTER ZORNETH, AN EXPLOITER OF SMILERS--THE VERY IDEA--!
WE HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR LANDING, MASTER ZORNETH.

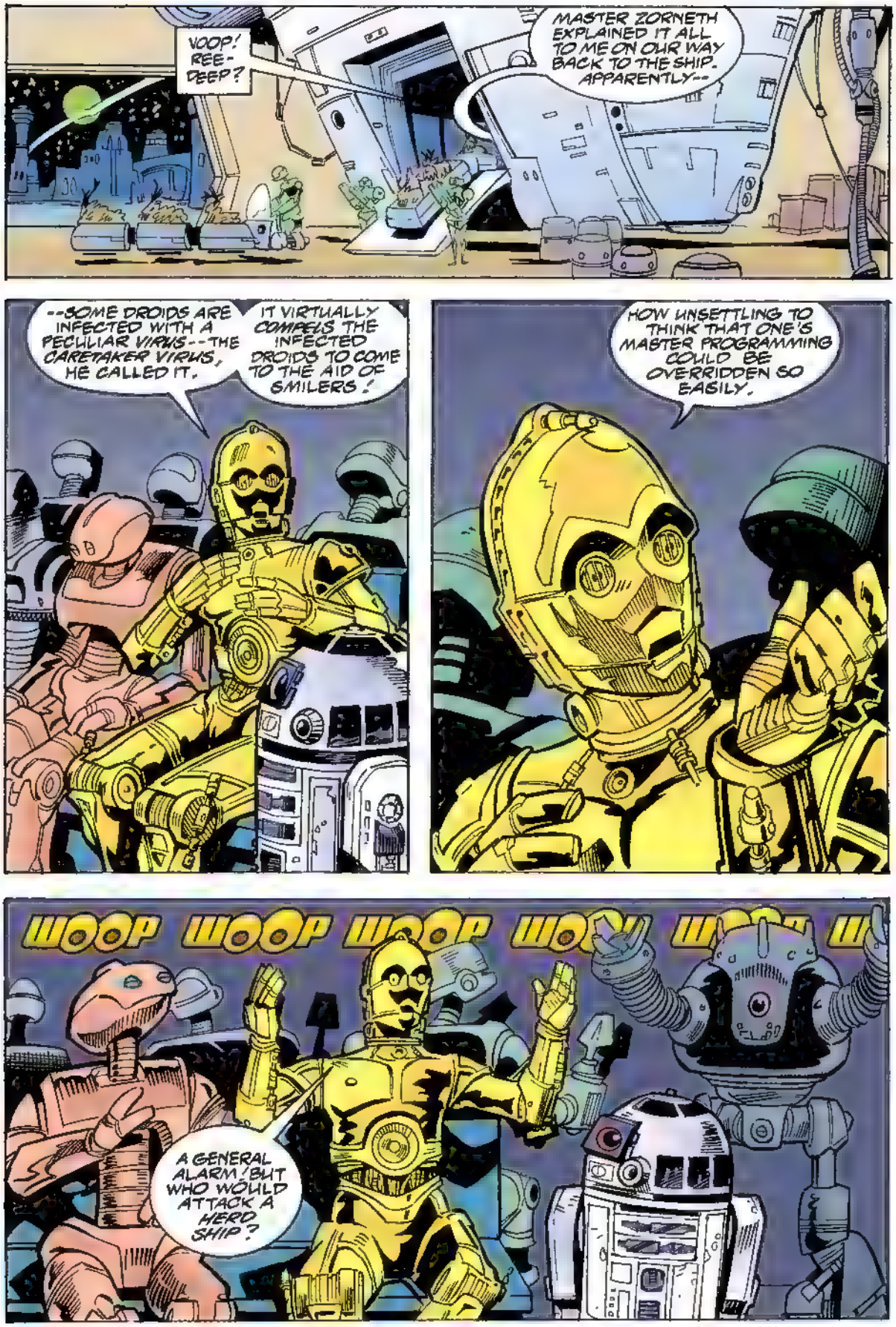

GOR BACH'HKA. KARRAH THREEPIO ALAKKA.
AT ONCE, SIR.
MASTER ZORNETH SAYS YOU'RE TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO MARKET. THERE WILL BE TRANSLATING TO DO.
AT LAST!
THE CONVERSATION OF THESE LABORER DROIDS WAS BEGINNING TO DULL MY CHIPS!
DOOT VRR-TEET! BIBBIT-VROOT!
NO, I'M QUITE SURE SMILEY WILL BE REMAINING ON BOARD SHIP... AS IF THAT WERE ANY CONCERN OF YOURS.

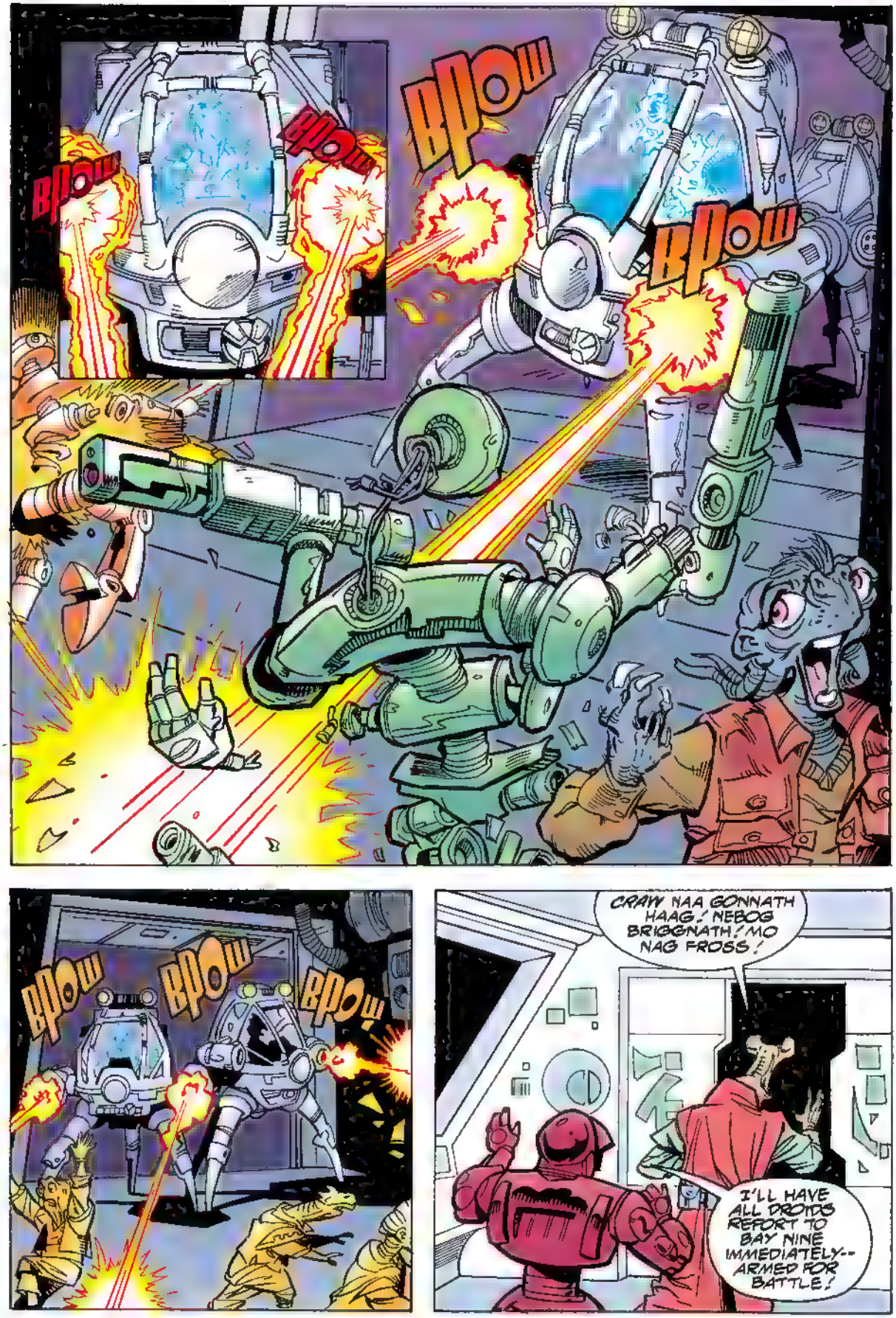

GOOD COATS, BUT SCRAWNY. DOES ZORNETH HAVE ANY THOOKAHS WITH *MEAT* ON THEIR BONES?

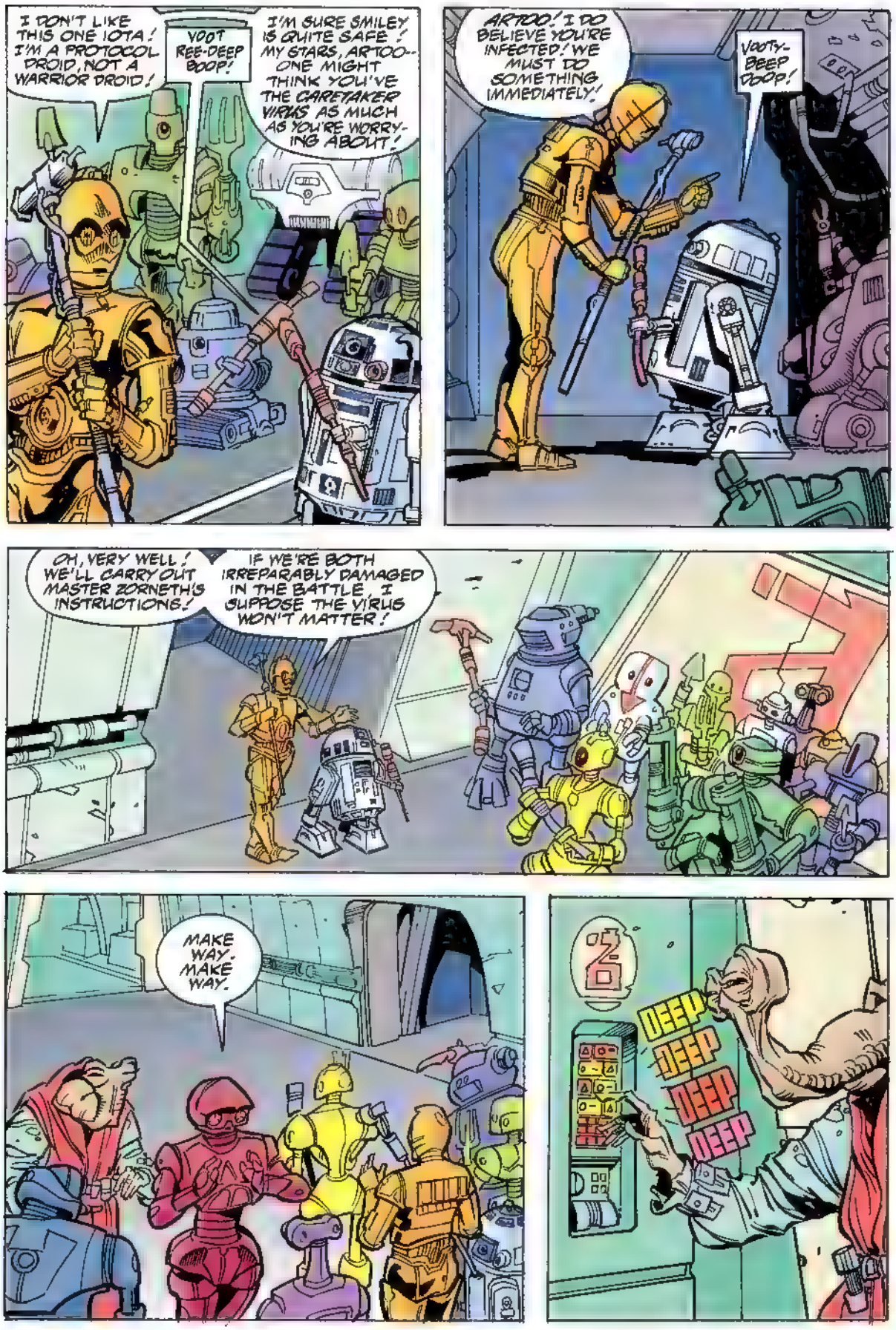

BLA HORCHTKA DOLAKAH! PAKAHTH! DRR RAKKAPOG NEBBREGA!
MASTER ZORNETH SAYS THAT HIS THOOKAHS ARE FOR SHEARING, NOT BUTCHERING! FURTHERMORE--
WHAT'S HE DOING? GET HIM DOWN FROM THERE!
GET HIM OFF BEFORE HE BREAKS ITS SPIRIT!
BREAKS HIS OWN NECK, MORE LIKELY.
OH, MY STARS! MASTER ZORNETH, LOOK!
WE'LL NEVER REACH SMILEY IN TIME! LUCKILY SOMEONE ELSE HAS SHOWN UP TO RESCUE HIM!
GOR BAKKA NEKKITH! HOK DREBREGA!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR--IT DOES SEEM MORE LIKE A KIDNAPPING THAN A RESCUE!
NAA GONNATH!

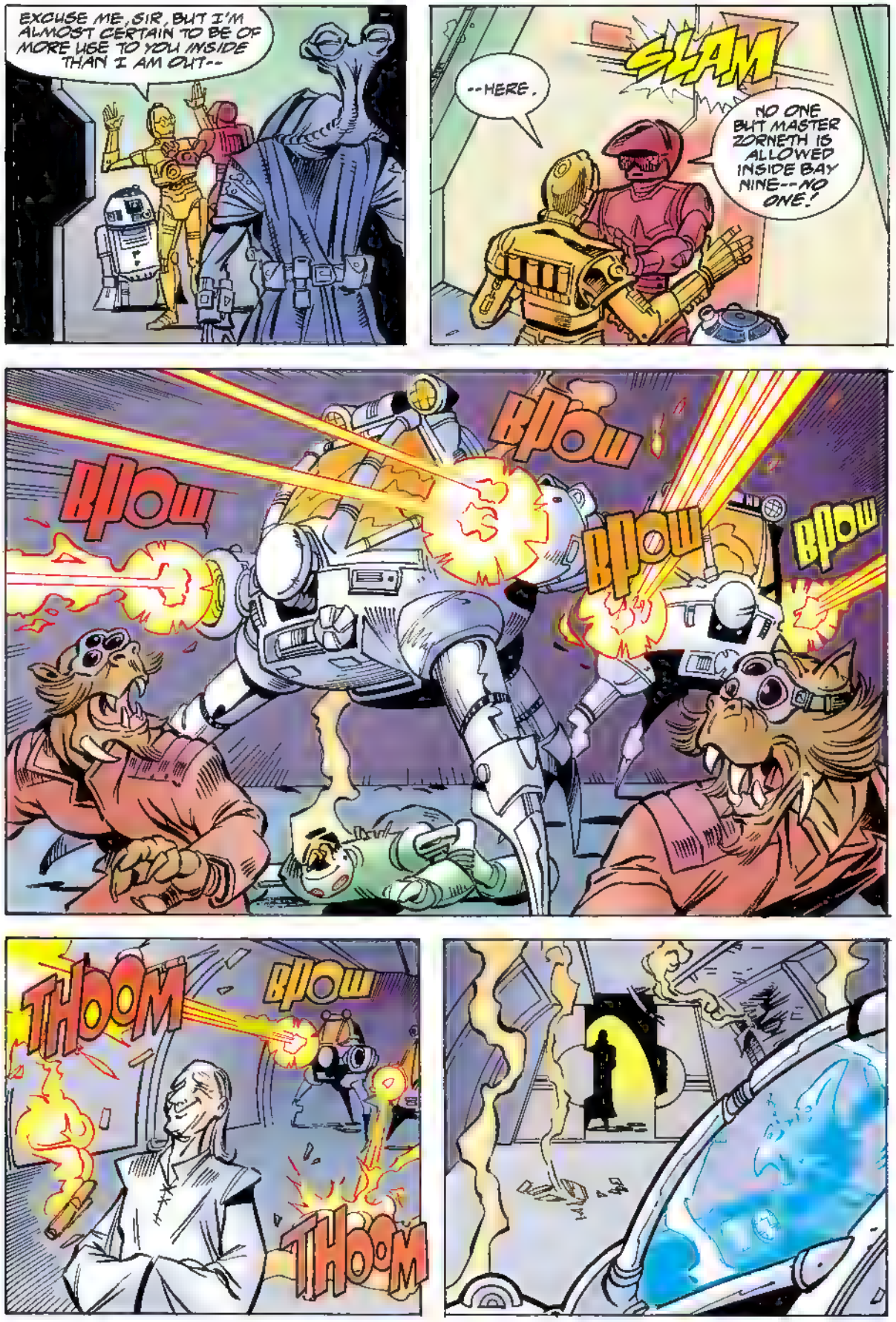

DEEP DEE EEP DIP
HEY, YOU, CD601-- WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? GET BACK TO WORK!
DEEP DEEP EEP DIP
WHAT IN THE--?
BRRW

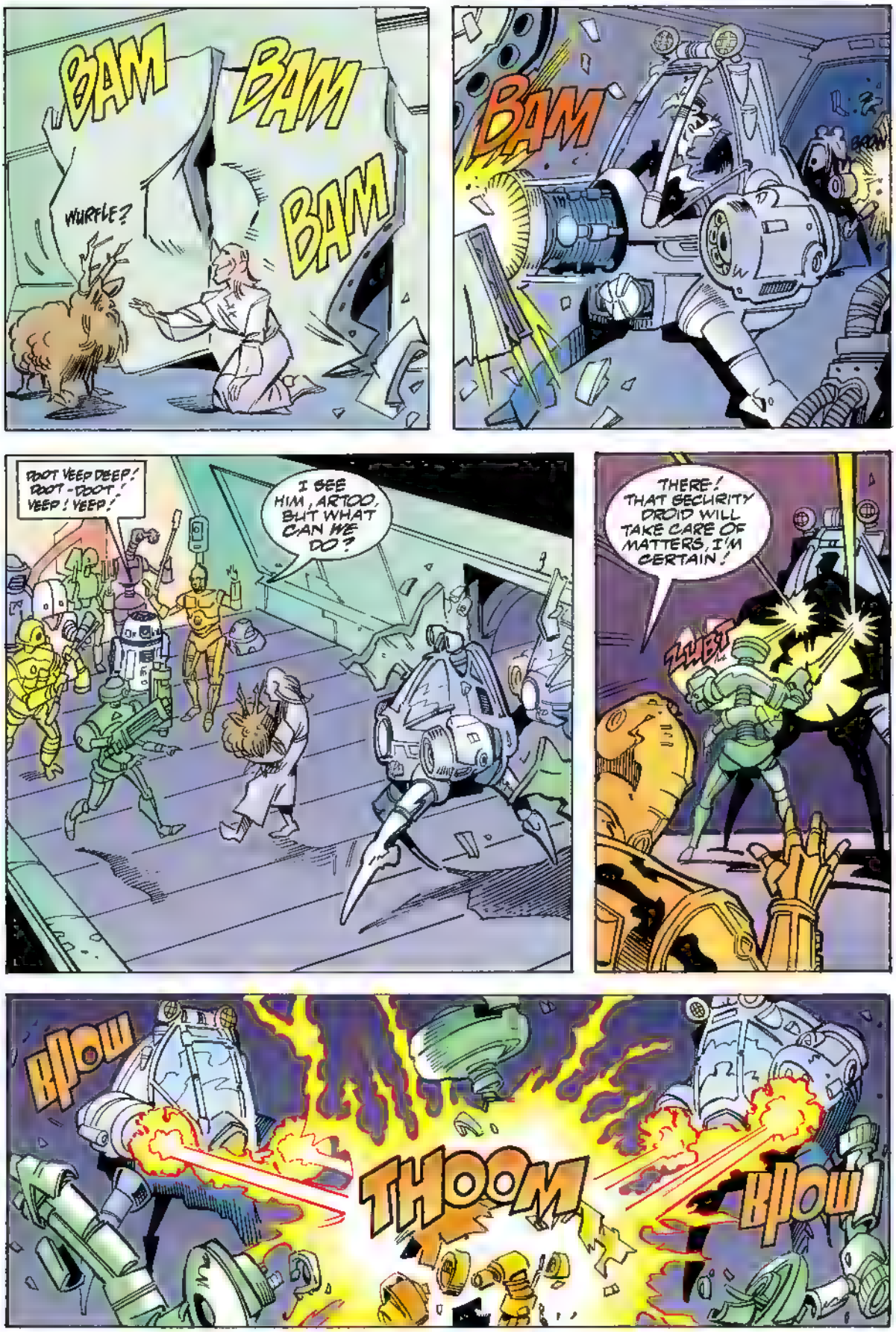

BPOW
WHOOMF
REMARKABLE! WHAT WOULD PROMPT A CONSTRUCTION DROID TO SUDDENLY--?
RORBAGH! NEBBRA GRNTH-WAA!
YES, I SUPPOSE WE DO HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO ATTEND TO. STILL--
GOR BACH'HKA CHEPRA-NAR!
SELL THE HERD AT A LOSS? WELL, IF IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE LEAVE SO QUICKLY--
YAAG-CRAW NAA GONNATH!


VOOP! REE-DEEP?
MASTER ZORNETH EXPLAINED IT ALL TO ME ON OUR WAY BACK TO THE SHIP. APPARENTLY--
--SOME DROIDS ARE INFECTED WITH A PECULIAR VIRUS--THE CARETAKER VIRUS, HE CALLED IT.
IT VIRTUALLY COMPELS THE INFECTED DROIDS TO COME TO THE AID OF SMILERS!
HOW UNSETTLING TO THINK THAT ONE'S MASTER PROGRAMMING COULD BE OVERRIDDEN SO EASILY.
WOOP WOOP WOOP
A GENERAL ALARM! BUT WHO WOULD ATTACK A HERD SHIP?

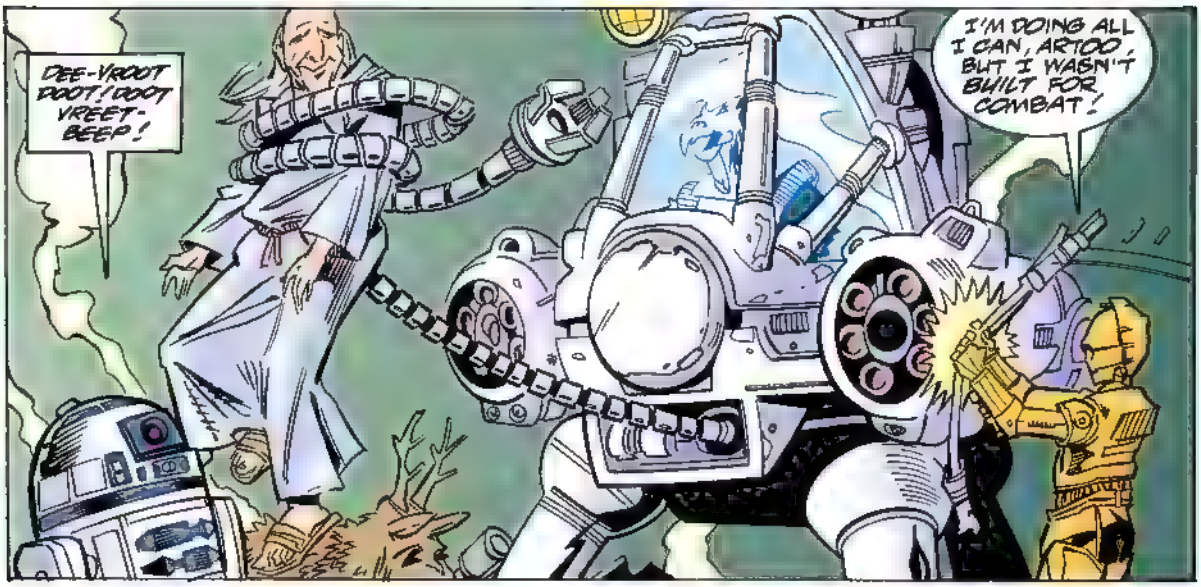

BPOW
BPOW
BPOW
BPOW
BPOW
BPOW
CRAW NAA GONNATH HAAG! NEBOG BRIGGNATH! MO NAG FROSS!
I'LL HAVE ALL DROIDS REPORT TO BAY NINE IMMEDIATELY--ARMED FOR BATTLE!

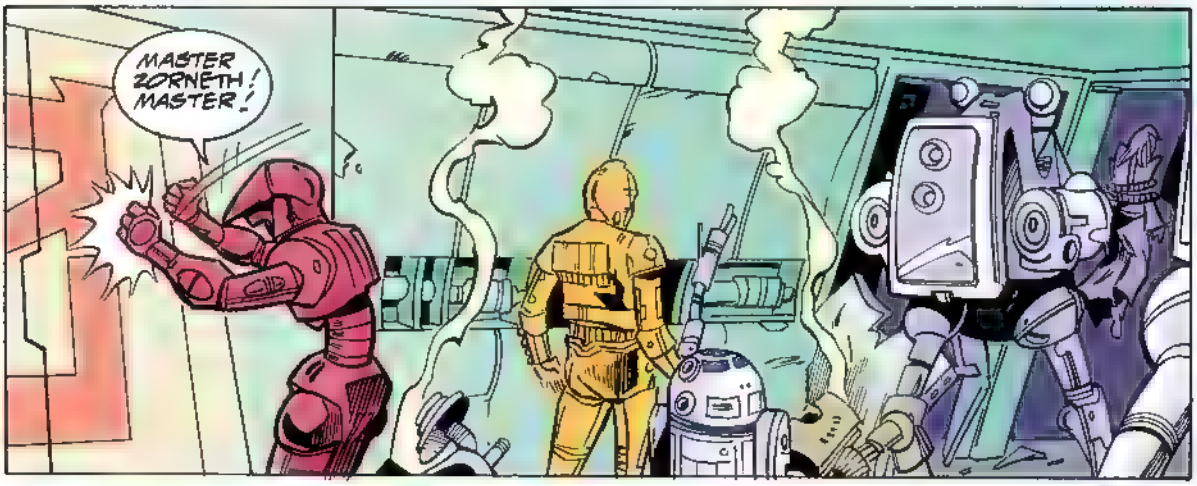

I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE IOTA! I'M A PROTOCOL DROID, NOT A WARRIOR DROID!
VOOT REE-DEEP BOOP!
I'M SURE SMILEY IS QUITE SAFE! MY STARS, ARTOO--ONE MIGHT THINK YOU'VE THE CARETAKER VIRUS AS MUCH AS YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT!
ARTOO! I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE INFECTED! WE MUST DO SOMETHING IMMEDIATELY!
VOOTY-BEEP DOOP!
OH, VERY WELL! WE'LL CARRY OUT MASTER ZORNETH'S INSTRUCTIONS!
IF WE'RE BOTH IRREPARABLY DAMAGED IN THE BATTLE, I SUPPOSE THE VIRUS WON'T MATTER!
MAKE WAY. MAKE WAY.
DEEP DEEP DEEP DEEP


EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT I'M ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE OF MORE USE TO YOU INSIDE THAN I AM OUT--
--HERE.
SLAM
NO ONE BUT MASTER ZORNETH IS ALLOWED INSIDE BAY NINE--NO ONE!
VROW
VROW
VROW
VROW
THOOM
VROW
THOOM

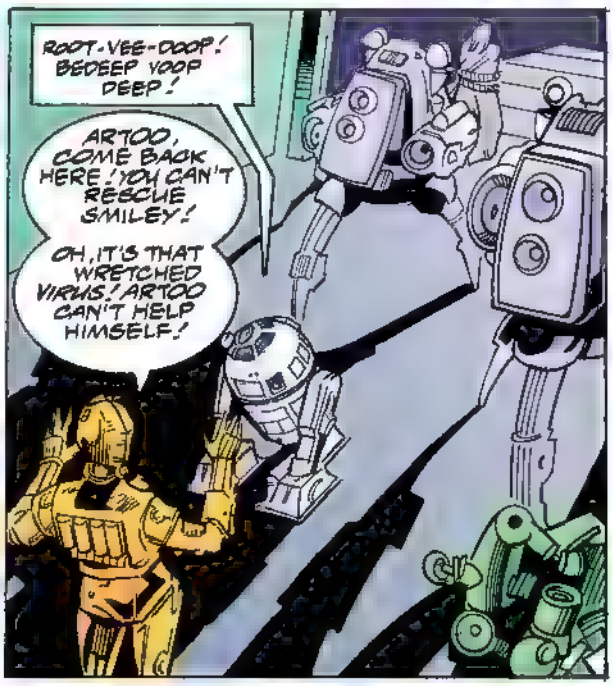

BAM
BAM
BAM
WURFLE?
BAM
DOOT VEEP DEEP! DOOT-DOOT! VEEP! VEEP!
I SEE HIM, ARTOO, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
THERE! THAT SECURITY DROID WILL TAKE CARE OF MATTERS, I'M CERTAIN!
SLUBT
BROW
THOOM
BROW

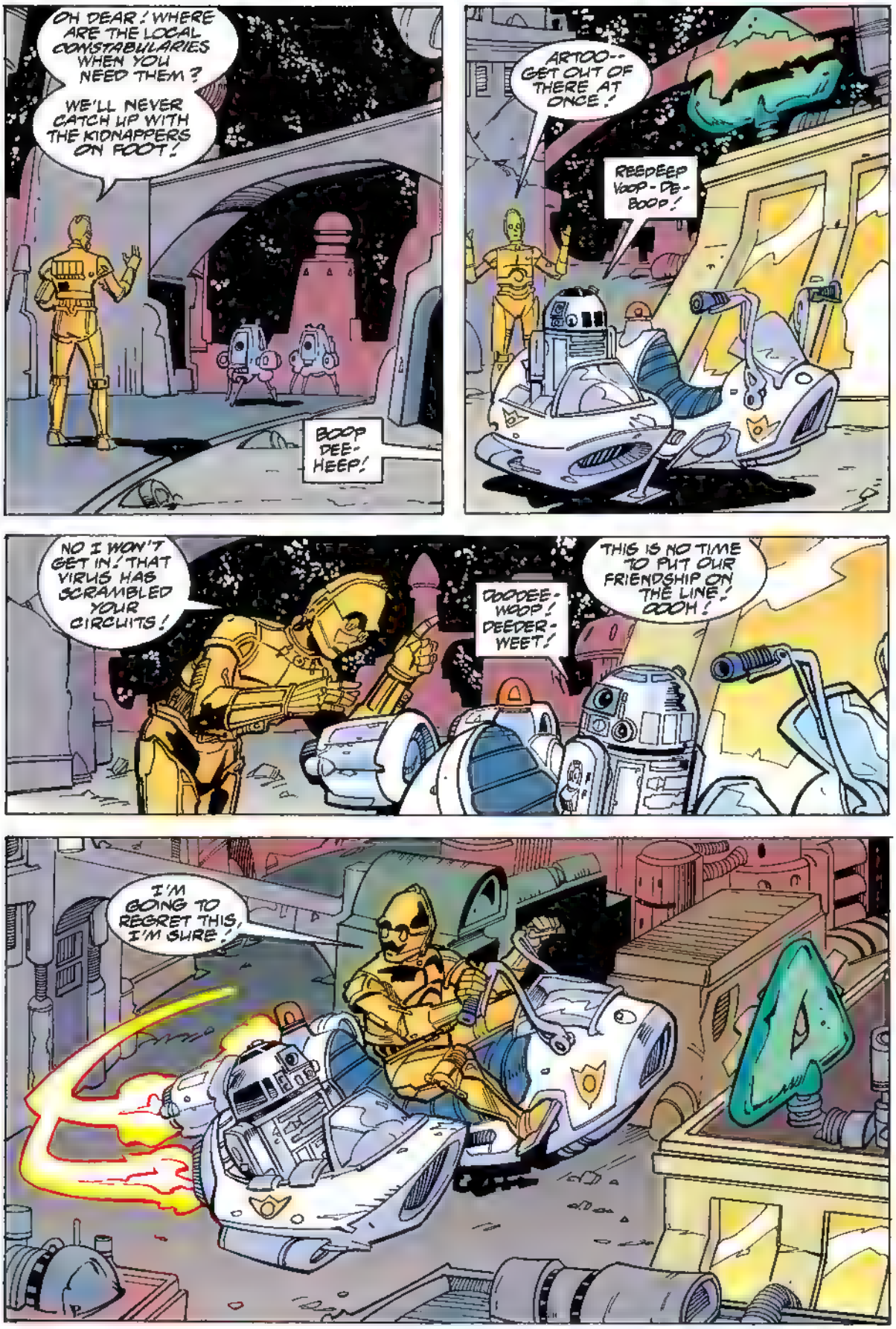
DEEP
DEEP
LWIP
H-HOOLA...
BPOW
KANG
WURFLE!?
THIS IS MOST UNSATISFACTORY! WE'RE DOOMED FOR SURE!

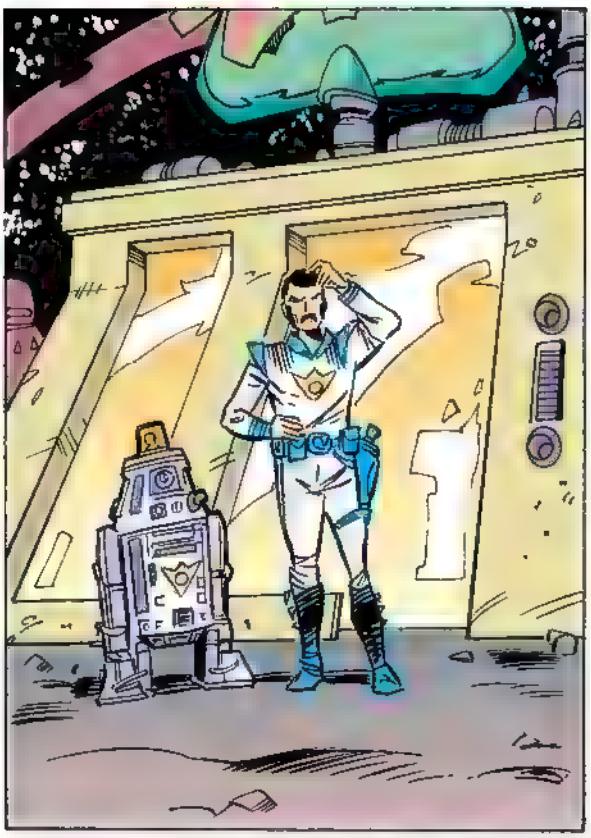

DEE-VROOT DOOT! DOOT VREET-BEEP!
I'M DOING ALL I CAN, ARTOO, BUT I WASN'T BUILT FOR COMBAT!


MASTER ZORNETH! MASTER!

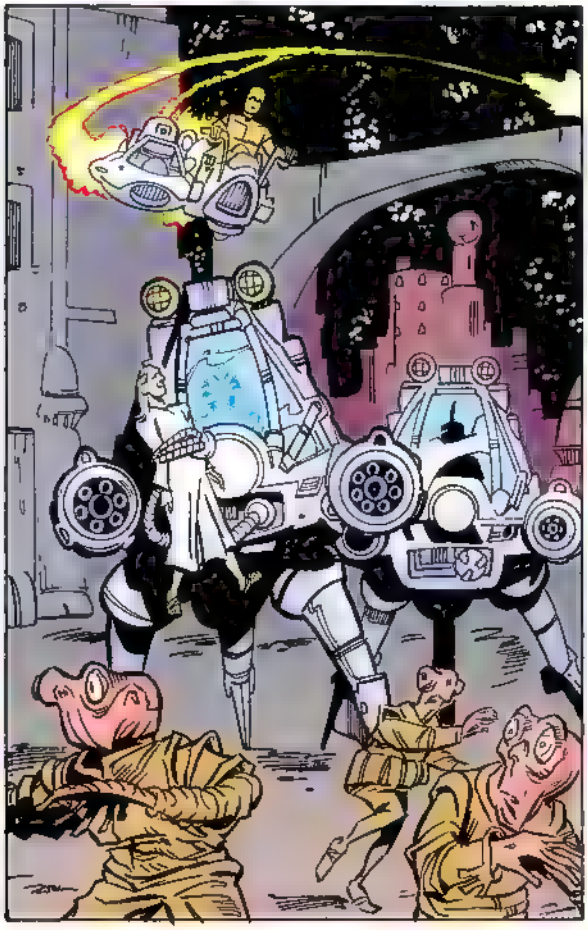
THEY'RE LEAVING-- AND THEY'VE TAKEN SMILEY!

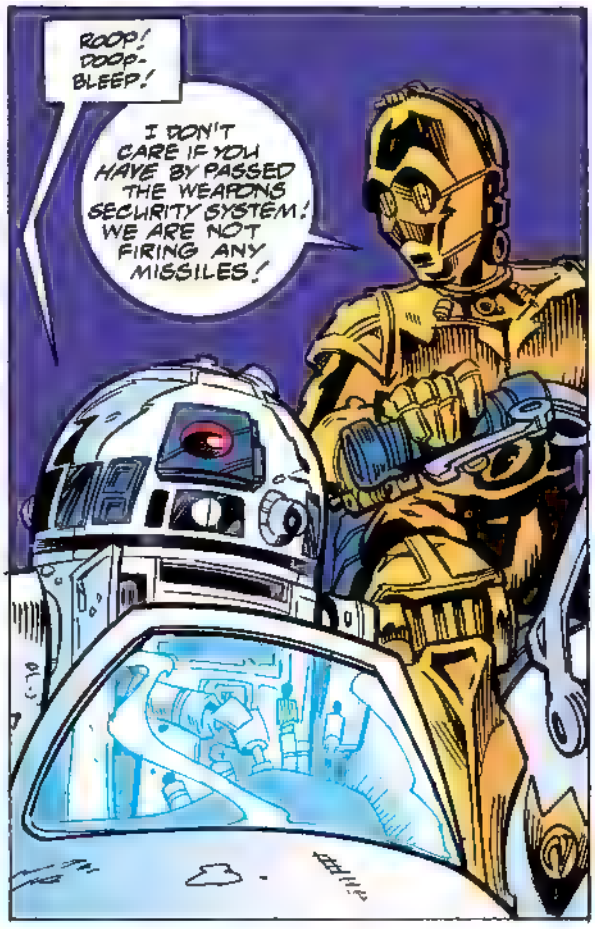

ROOT-VEE-DOOP! BEDEEP YOOP DEEP!
ARTOO, COME BACK HERE! YOU CAN'T RESCUE SMILEY!
OH, IT'S THAT WRETCHED VIRUS! ARTOO CAN'T HELP HIMSELF!


OH DEAR! WHERE ARE THE LOCAL CONSTABULARIES WHEN YOU NEED THEM?
WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH THE KIDNAPPERS ON FOOT!
BOOP DEE-HEEP!
ARTOO--GET OUT OF THERE AT ONCE!
REEDEEP VOOP-DE-BOOP!
NO I WON'T GET IN! THAT VIRUS HAS SCRAMBLED YOUR CIRCUITS!
DOODEE-WOOP! DEEDER-WEET!
THIS IS NO TIME TO PUT OUR FRIENDSHIP ON THE LINE! OOOH!
I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS, I'M SURE!

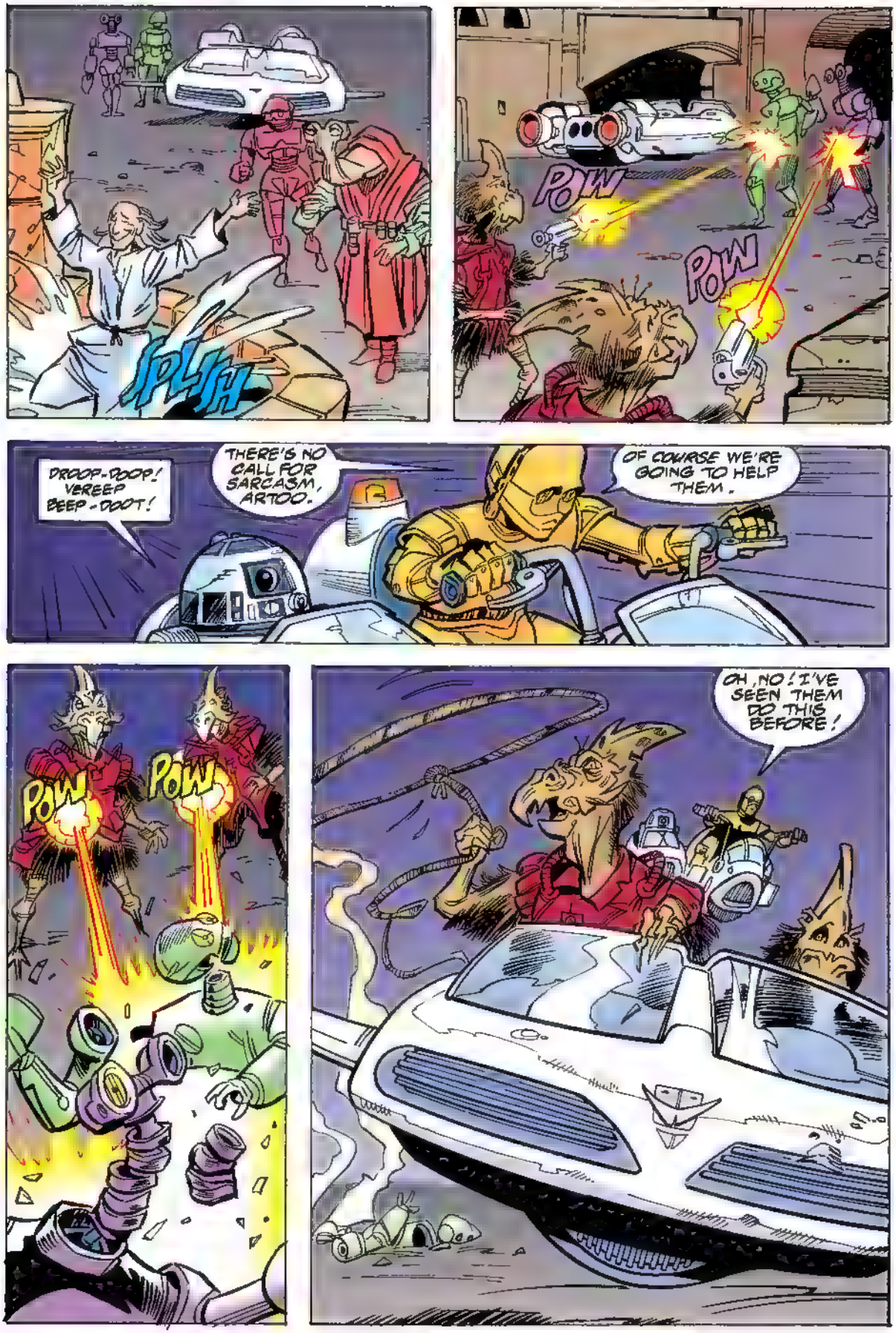


ZEEEEEE

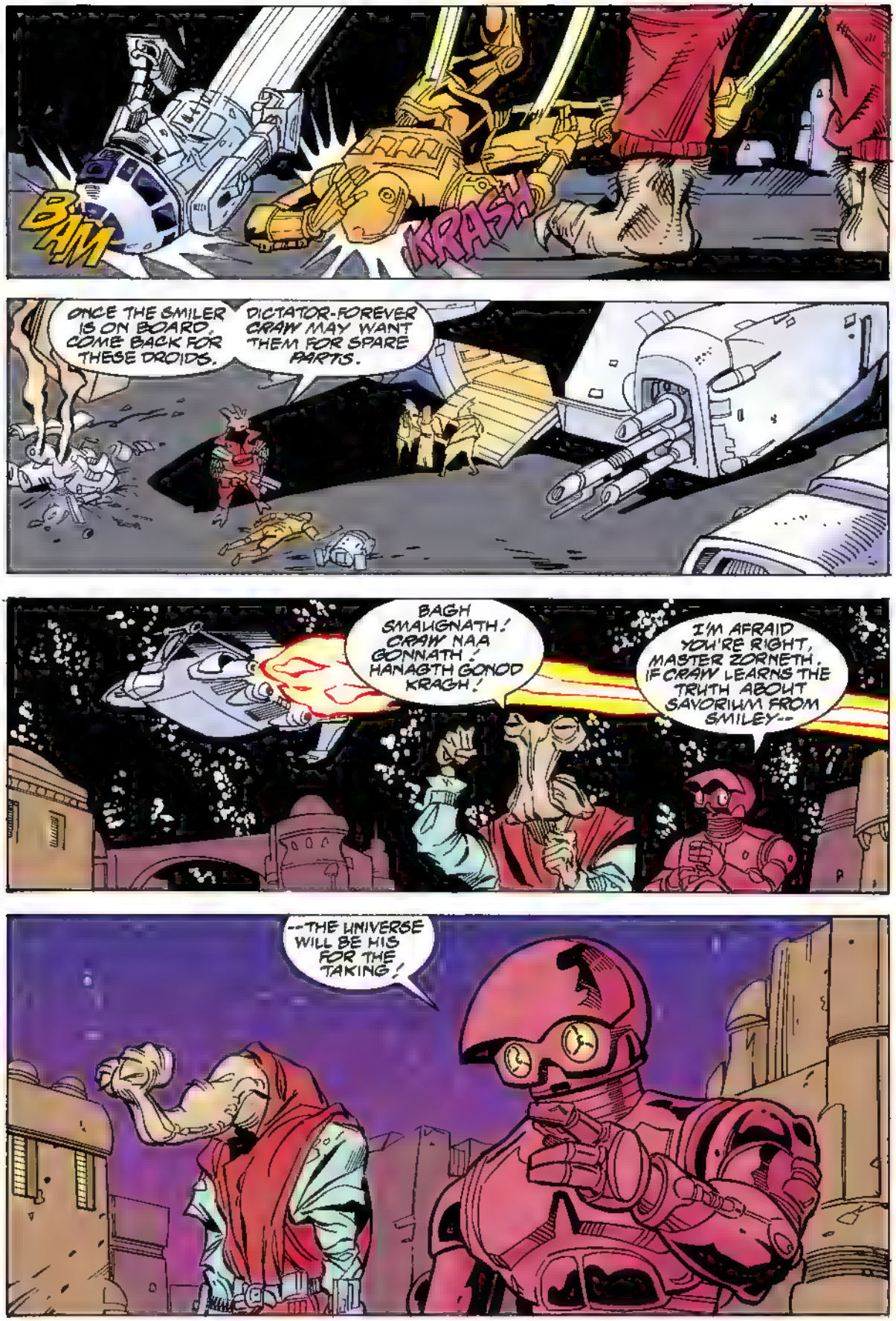



ROOP! DOOP-BLEEP!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE BY PASSED THE WEAPONS SECURITY SYSTEM! WE ARE NOT FIRING ANY MISSILES!

FSSSH
FSSSH
THIS WILL GET OUR MEMORIES WIPED FOR SURE!
THOOM
THOOM
THANK THE MAKER! SMILEY APPEARS UNHURT!
LOOK, ARTOO--I DO BELIEVE THAT'S MASTER ZORNETH!


SPLISH
POW
POW
DROOP-DOOP! VEREEP BEEP-DOOT!
THERE'S NO CALL FOR SARCASM, ARTOO.
OF COURSE WE'RE GOING TO HELP THEM.
POW
POW
OH, NO! I'VE SEEN THEM DO THIS BEFORE!

DROOT BEE-DEEP!
NO, I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS, EITHER!
POOM
ZHBT


BAM
KRASH
ONCE THE SMILER IS ON BOARD, COME BACK FOR THESE DROIDS.
DICTATOR-FOREVER CRAW MAY WANT THEM FOR SPARE PARTS.
BAGH SMAUGNATH! CRAW NAA GONNATH! HANAGTH GONOD KRAGH!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE RIGHT, MASTER ZORNETH. IF CRAW LEARNS THE TRUTH ABOUT SAVORIUM FROM SMILEY--
--THE UNIVERSE WILL BE HIS FOR THE TAKING!

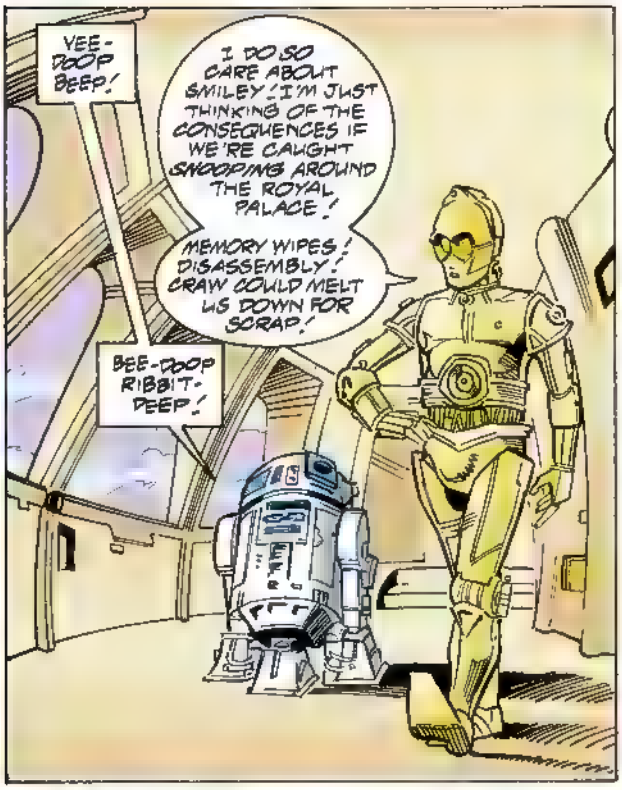
OH, DEAR!
WAKE UP, ARTOO! JUST LOOK WHERE YOUR HEROICS HAVE LANDED US!
VOO-DOOP?
I'VE HEARD STORIES OF TARGONN THAT WOULD DRAIN YOUR THYRISTORS...
...WHICH IS PROBABLY THE EXACT FATE DICTATOR-FOREVER CRAW HAS PLANNED FOR US!

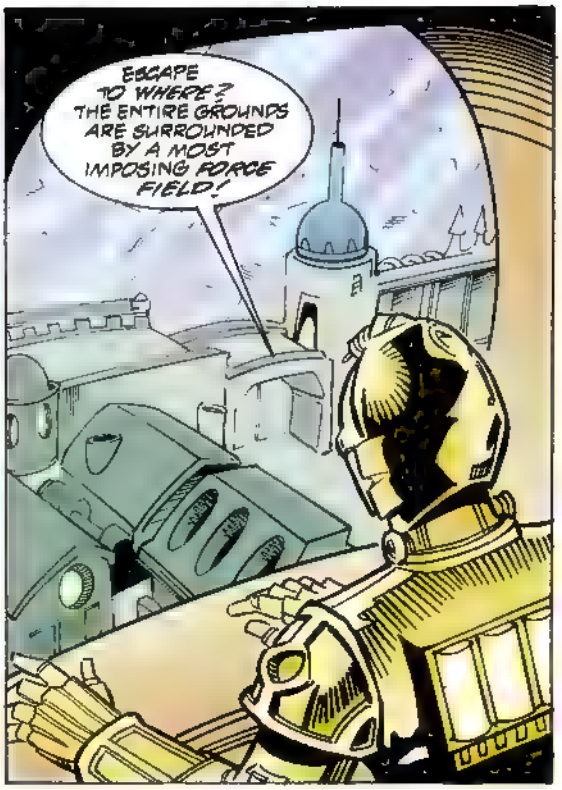
BAD NEWS, O DICTATOR-FOREVER! THE SPLINTER-GROUPS HAVE UNIFIED UNDER THE REVOLTIST LEADER SHAY!
I FEAR THEY'RE PREPARING FOR AN ATTACK!
BLAST SHAY AND HIS REVOLTISTS! ADVISE ME, CHIEF ADVISOR--
--THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO APPEASE THIS RABBLE!
WELL THE PUBLIC FLOGGINGS HAVE NOT BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE POPULACE AND MIGHT BE LIMITED TO HOLIDAYS.
THE TAX RATE MIGHT BE LOWERED TO SOMETHING LESS THAN NINETY-NINE PER CENT.
AND PERHAPS, IF CHILDREN WERE NOT DRAFTED TO WORK IN THE FACTORIES UNTIL THE AGE OF SIX--
ENOUGH!
I'LL NOT SACRIFICE MY PRINCIPLES TO APPEASE A BUNCH OF SELF-ABSORBED PEASANTS!
GUARDS!

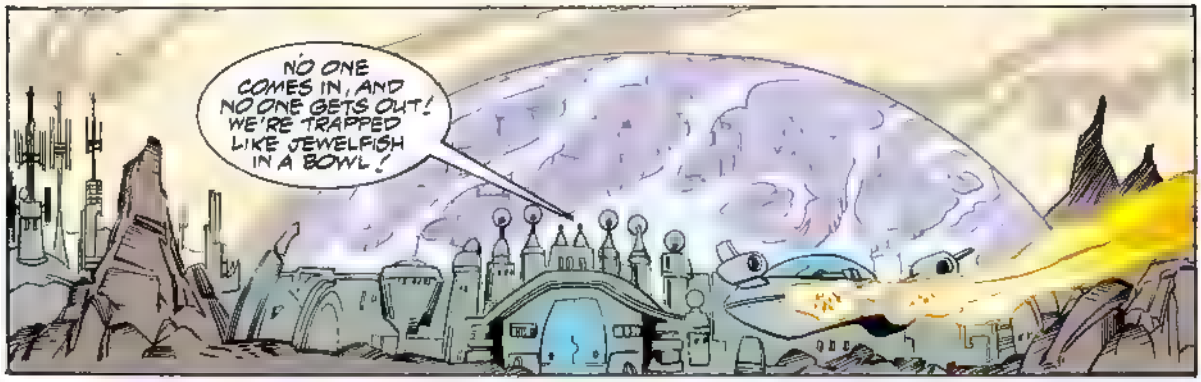
NEVER LET ME SEE HIS TRAITOROUS BEAK AGAIN!
YOU DID LAST LONGER THAN ANY PREVIOUS CHIEF ADVISOR, YOU KNOW.
OH, THAT MAKES MY DAY...
I WANT MY SMILER! WHERE IS MY SMILER, BLAST IT?!
GET HIM DOWN FROM THERE AT ONCE, OR BY MY MOTHER'S WATTLE, I'LL SHOOT HIM DOWN!
BUT, CAPTAIN STEGGUS, HE WON'T LET GO!

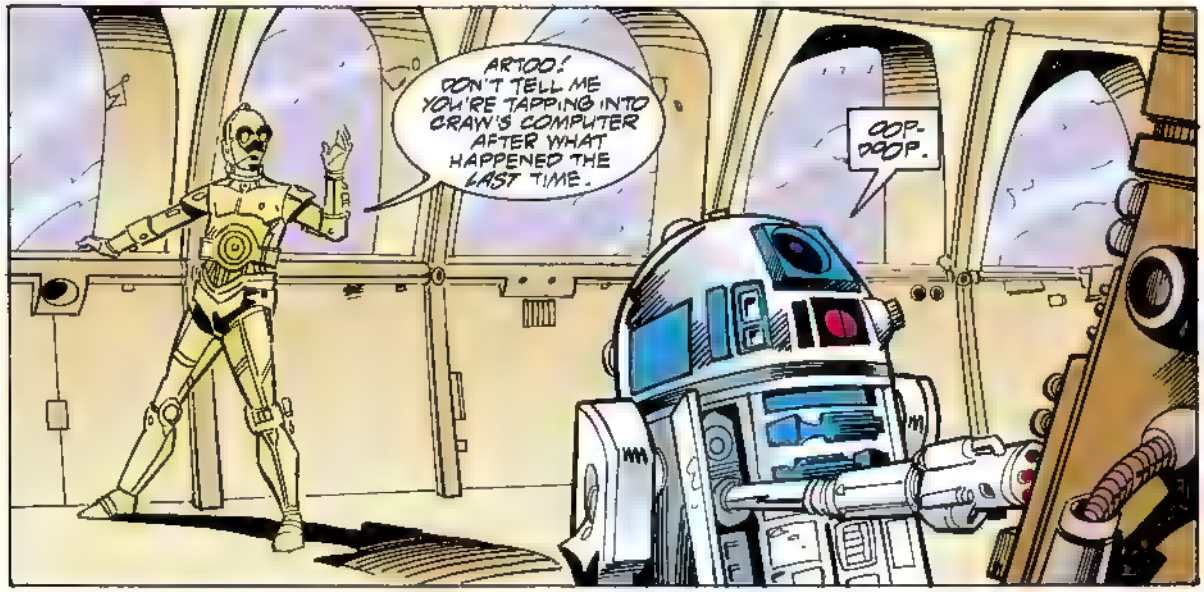
MAYBE A STUN BLAST WILL WIPE THAT IDIOTIC GRIN OFF HIS FACE!
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
PARDON, YOUR BRILLIANCY. SMILERS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO... MOTIVATE.
LOOK AT THAT SMILE! IMAGINE AN ENTIRE POPULACE HAPPY TO BE HUMILIATED... CONTENT TO BE ABUSED.
SUCH IS MY DREAM, STEGGUS.
I WANT A COMPLETE BRAIN-DRAIN. I MUST KNOW THE SECRET OF SAVORIUM!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT LANGUAGES WILL POUR FORTH FROM HIS STIMULATED CEREBRUM.
WE MAY NEED A TRANS-LATOR.

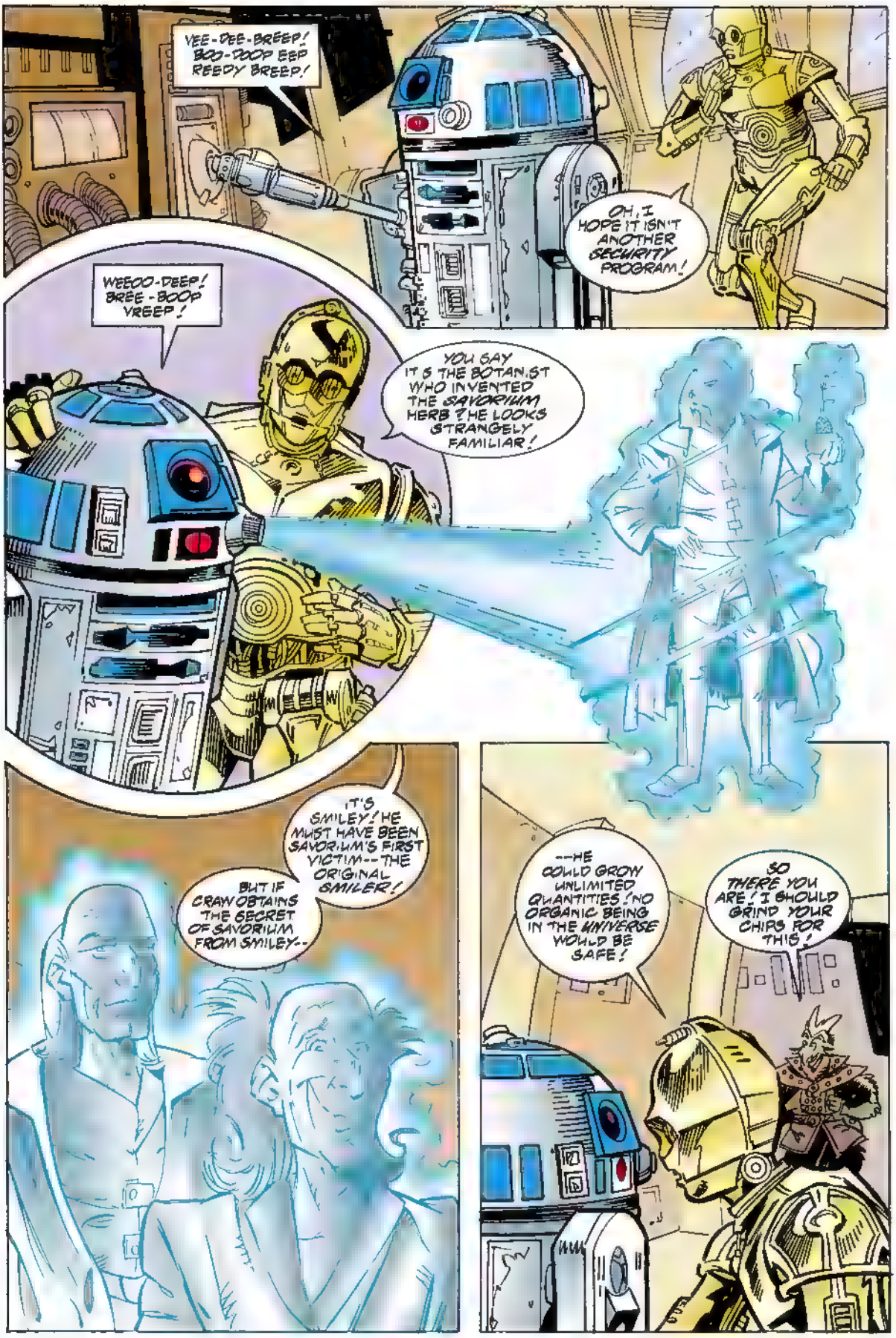
YOU'RE RIGHT. I REMEMBER ONE PRISONER WHOSE ENTIRE CONFESSION CAME OUT AS INTERPRETATIVE DANCE.
BETTER HAVE MY PROTOCOL DROID STANDING BY.
YOUR BRILLIANCY WILL RECALL THAT HE WAS, AH, RE-ASSIGNED--
"--WHEN H 5 TRANSLATION OF YOUR JOKE ABOUT THE THREE HARDEX AND THE BANTHA FAILED TO AMUSE THE HARDEXIAN AMBASSADOR."
THEN GET ME ANOTHER ONE, BLAST IT, STEGGUS, DO I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING?
THERE IS A SLIGHT SECURITY RISK WITH AN UNPROVEN DROID...
THEN WE'LL MAKE AN ORNAMENT OUT OF HIM WHEN HE'S FINISHED, A PLANTER, PERHAPS, OR A NICE END TABLE.
YES, YOUR BRILLIANCY.


VEE-DOOP BEEP!
I DO SO CARE ABOUT SMILEY! I'M JUST THINKING OF THE CONSEQUENCES IF WE'RE CAUGHT SNOOPING AROUND THE ROYAL PALACE!
MEMORY WIPES! DISASSEMBLY! CRAW COULD MELT US DOWN FOR SCRAP!
BEE-DOOP RIBBIT-DEEP!


ESCAPE TO WHERE? THE ENTIRE GROUNDS ARE SURROUNDED BY A MOST IMPOSING FORCE FIELD!

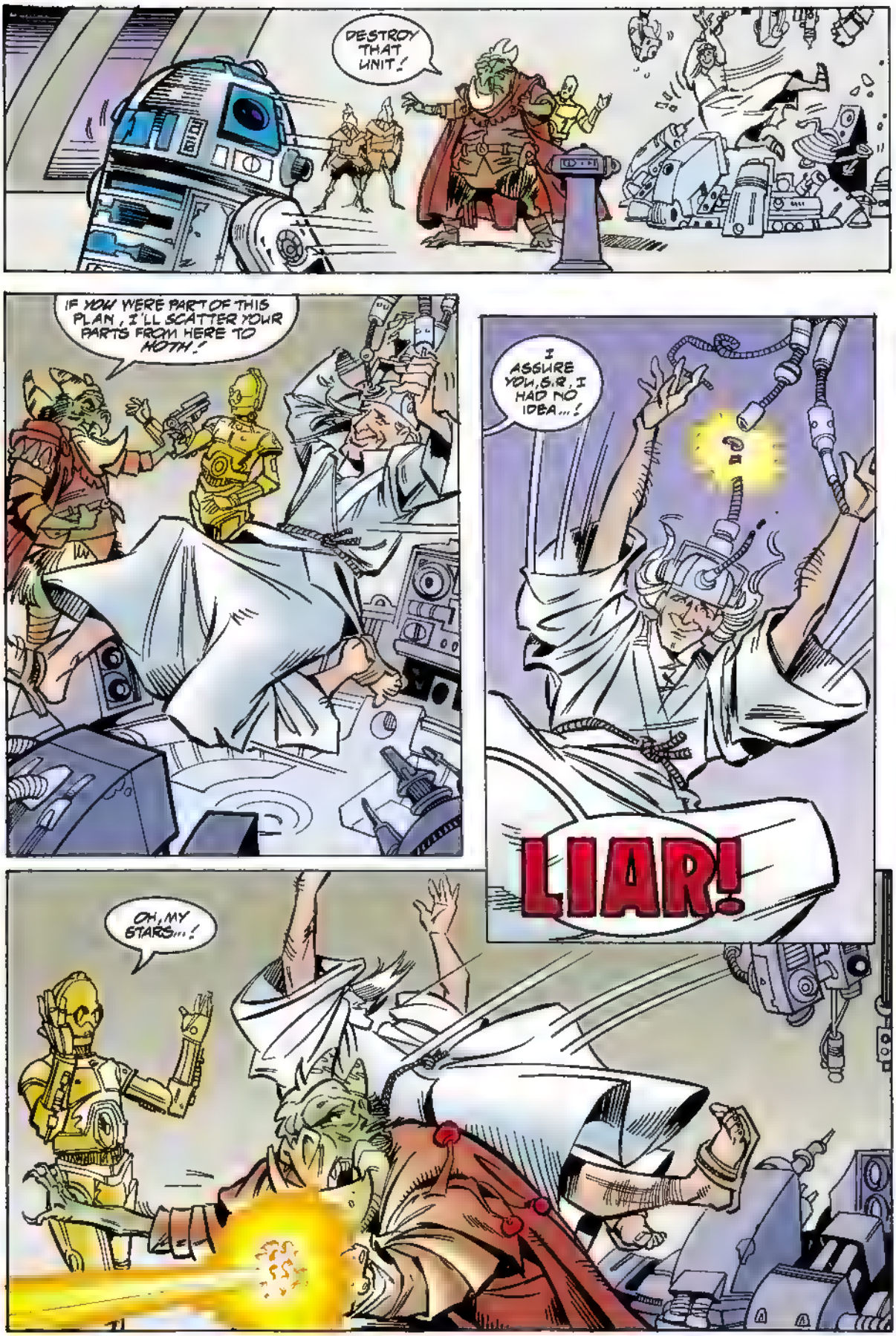

NO ONE COMES IN, AND NO ONE GETS OUT! WE'RE TRAPPED LIKE JEWELFISH IN A BOWL!

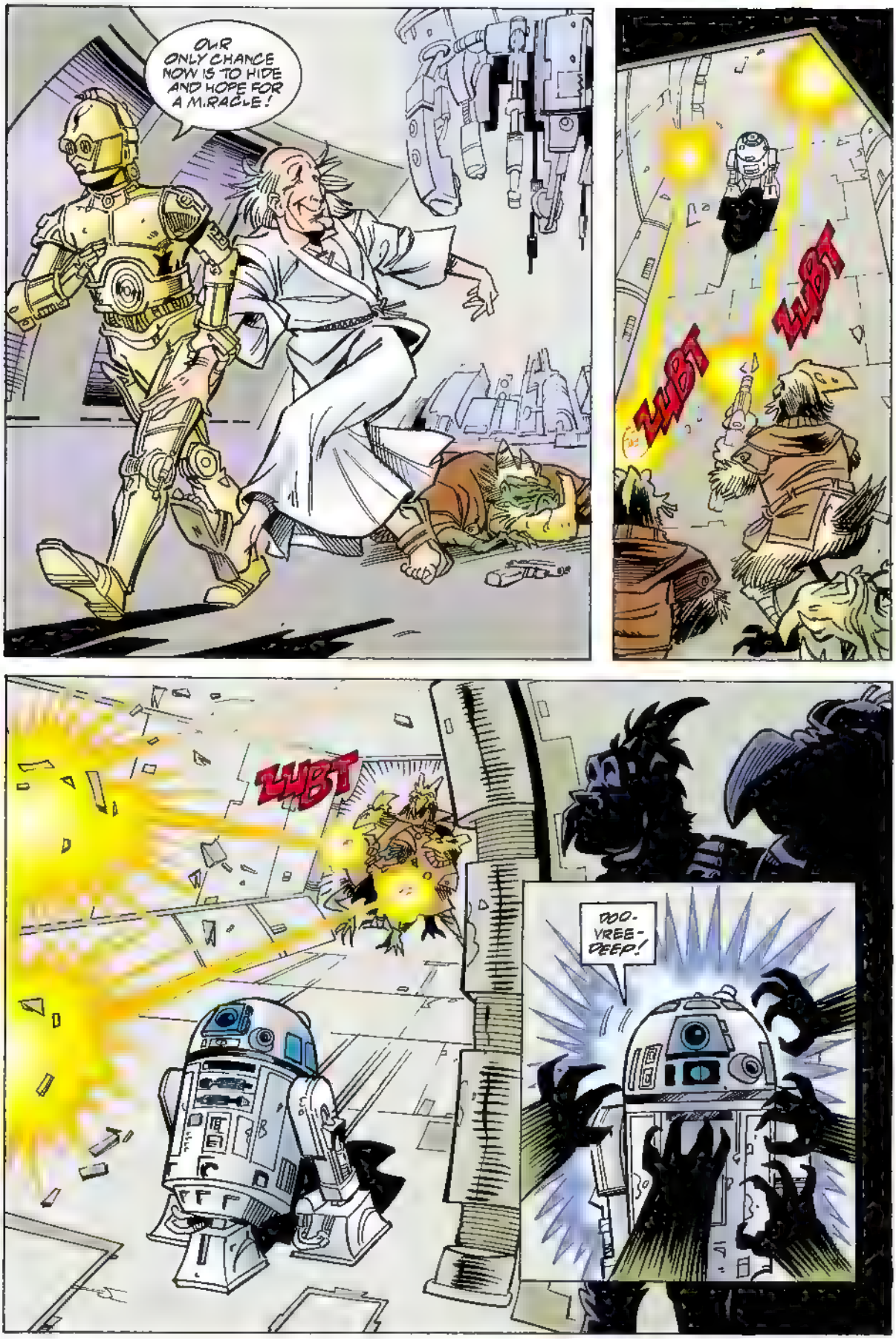

ARTOO! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TAPPING INTO CRAW'S COMPUTER AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME.
OOP-DOOP.


VEE-DEE-BREEP! BOO-DOOP EEP REEDY BREEP!
OH, I HOPE IT ISN'T ANOTHER SECURITY PROGRAM!
WEEOO-DEEP! BREE-BOOP VREEP!
YOU SAY IT'S THE BOTANIST WHO INVENTED THE SAVORIUM HERB? HE LOOKS STRANGELY FAMILIAR!
IT'S SMILEY! HE MUST HAVE BEEN SAVORIUM'S FIRST VICTIM--THE ORIGINAL SMILER!
BUT IF CRAW OBTAINS THE SECRET OF SAVORIUM FROM SMILEY--
--HE COULD GROW UNLIMITED QUANTITIES! NO ORGANIC BEING IN THE UNIVERSE WOULD BE SAFE!
SO THERE YOU ARE! I SHOULD GRIND YOUR CHIPS FOR THIS!

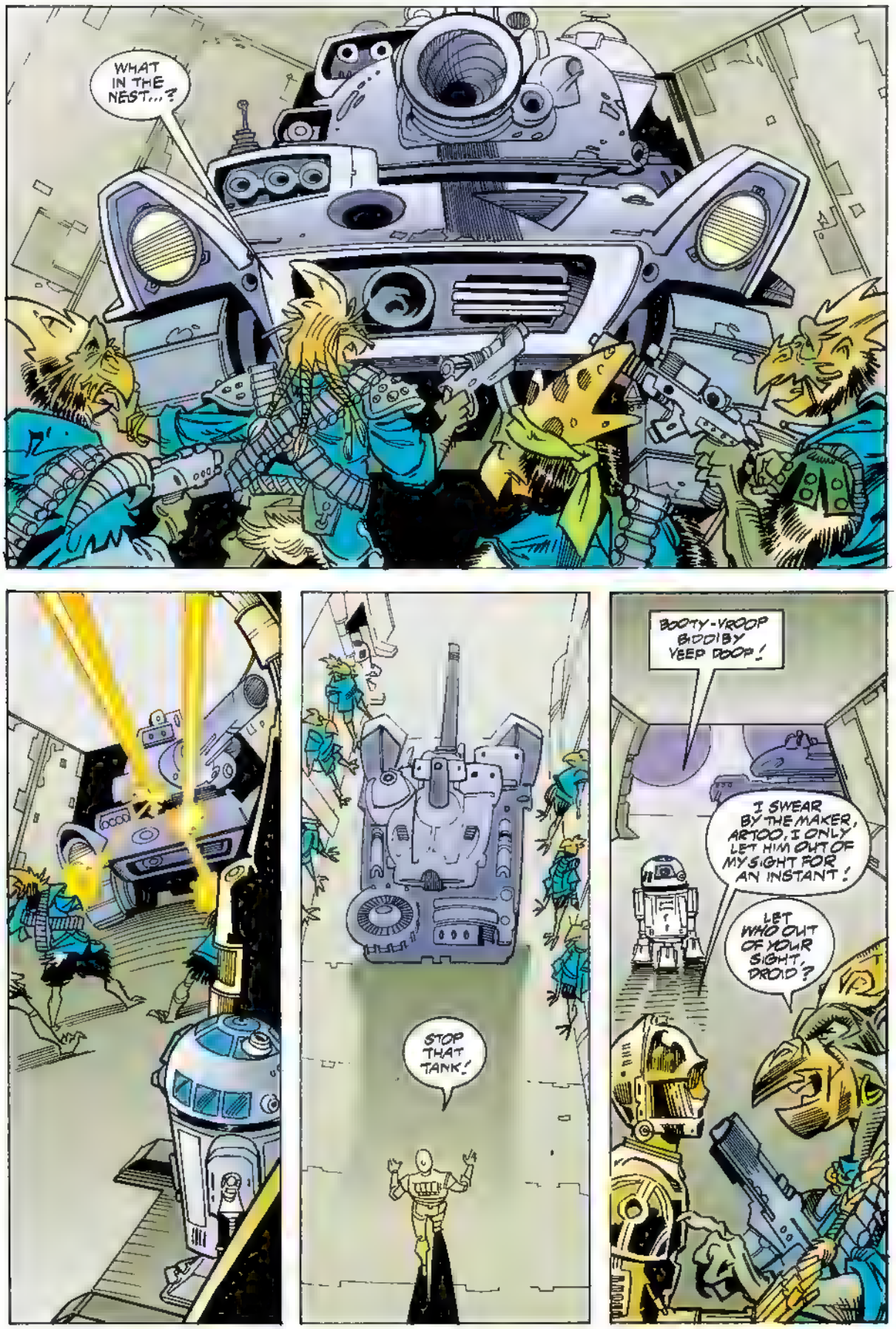
DICTATOR-FOREVER CRAW DEMANDS YOUR PRESENCE AT THE SMILER'S BRAIN-DRAINING!
OH, MY!
VOO-DEEP BOOP BRIBBIT-DEEP!
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT, ARTOO. I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT... THAT.
BOOP-DEEP CHRRRPITY VREEP!
IT'S AN AFFLICTION OF MINE, YOU SEE. I NEED THIS R2 UNIT TO RECHARGE MY MNEMONIC CIRCUIT IN THE EVENT OF AN...
...ANCILLARY PYROTECHNIC ...OVERLOAD.
OH, WELL.
HE CAN COME, THEN.
HE BELIEVED ME, ARTOO! I SWEAR, THE THINGS I DO FOR YOU...!

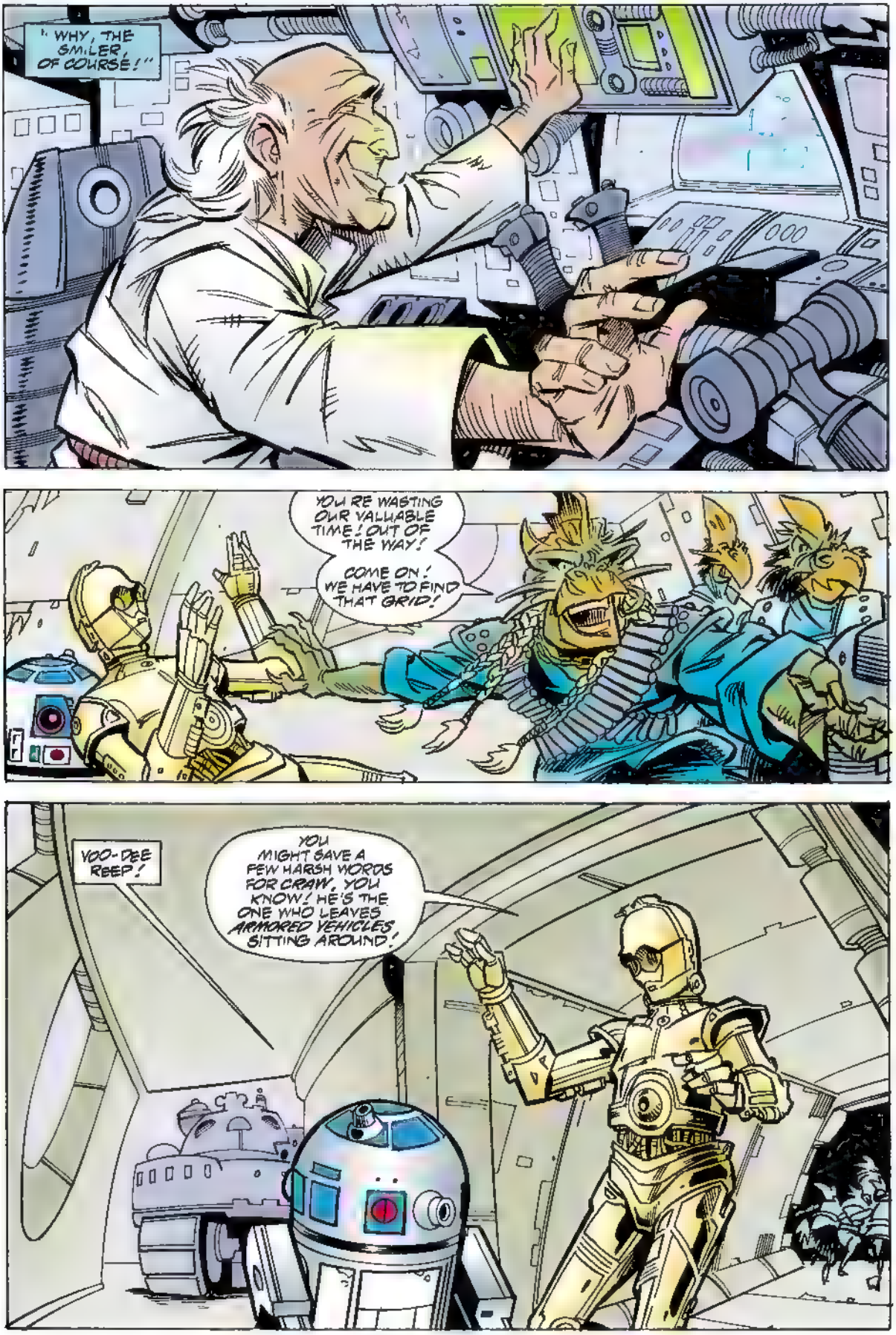
WIRE HIM UP WELL! IF YOU DON'T GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OF HIS BRAIN LEFT TO TRY AGAIN!
WHY YOU WANT TO ATTEND SUCH AN UNPLEASANT ACTIVITY IS QUITE BEYOND MY CAPACITY, ARTOO!
VROOP-DE-BREEP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "I'LL SEE"? I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT AT ALL!
WATCH HIM CAREFULLY! LET HIM DANCE IF HE NEEDS TO!
BOOP-VREEP-DEEPITY-VROOP-BP!
NOO!
BZAPLZZKKTT


DESTROY THAT UNIT!
IF YOU WERE PART OF THIS PLAN, I'LL SCATTER YOUR PARTS FROM HERE TO HOTH!
I ASSURE YOU, S.R., I HAD NO IDEA...!
LIAR!
OH, MY STARS...!


OUR ONLY CHANCE NOW IS TO HIDE AND HOPE FOR A MIRACLE!
ZUBT
ZUBT
ZUBT
DOO-VREE-DEEP!

REVOLTISTS!
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED! RETREAT AND REGROUP!
RUN, YOU COWARDS!
VOOP DE-BOOP VREEP!
NEVER MIND THE DROID! THIS WAY! IF WE CAN FIND THE POWER GRID AND SABOTAGE CRAW'S FORCE FIELD--
--IT'LL SPARK THE REVOLUTION!


WHAT IN THE NEST...?
STOP THAT TANK!
BOOTY-VROOP BIDDIBY VEEP DOOP!
I SWEAR BY THE MAKER, ARTOO, I ONLY LET HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR AN INSTANT!
LET WHO OUT OF YOUR SIGHT, DROID?

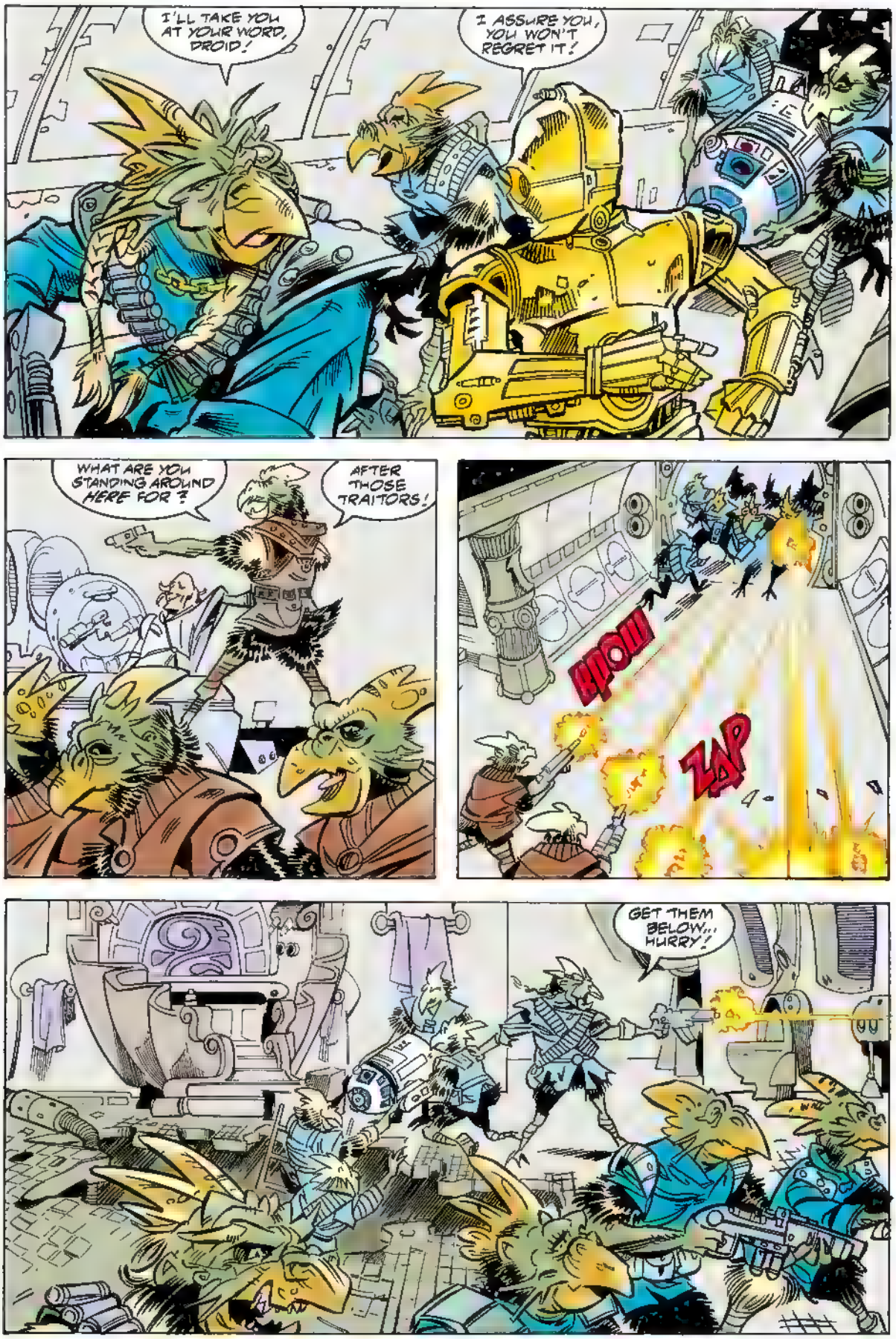

"WHY, THE SMILER, OF COURSE!"
YOU'RE WASTING OUR VALUABLE TIME! OUT OF THE WAY!
COME ON! WE HAVE TO FIND THAT GRID!
YOO-DEE REEP!
YOU MIGHT SAVE A FEW HARSH WORDS FOR CRAW, YOU KNOW! HE'S THE ONE WHO LEAVES ARMORED VEHICLES SITTING AROUND!

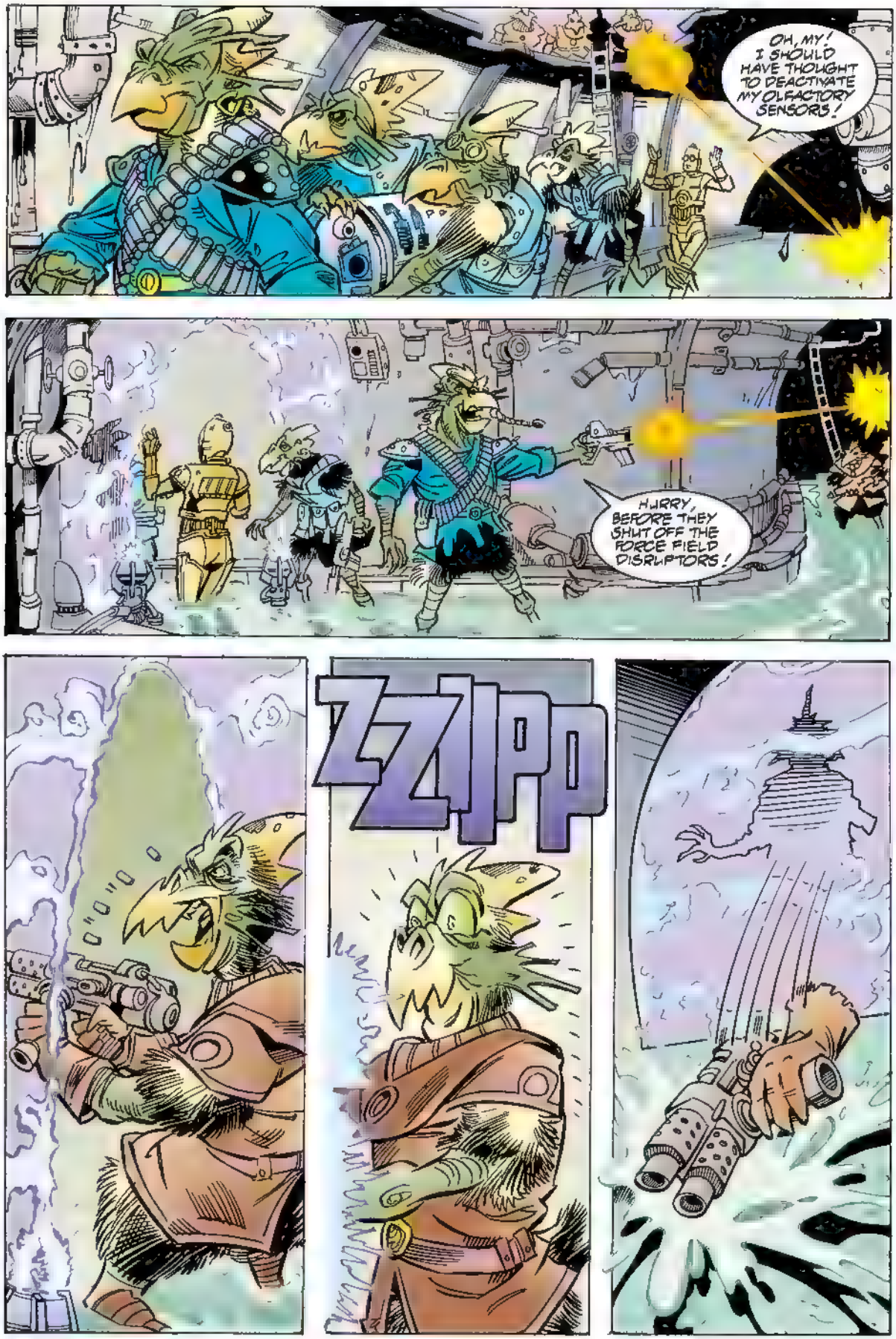
FIND THE SMILER AT ONCE! WE'LL RESORT TO OLD-FASHIONED METHODS OF INTERROGATION!
BUT YOUR BRILLIANCY, THE PALACE IS UNDER ATTACK BY REVOLTISTS!
SO KILL THEM AND THEN BRING ME THE SMILER! MUST I SPELL OUT EVERY DETAIL?!
OH, IF I'D KNOWN HOW MUCH TROUBLE 'T WAS BEING DICTATOR, I'D HAVE STAYED ON THE FARM!
CAPTAIN STEGGUS! WE'VE GOT THE REVOLTISTS DOWN IN CORRIDOR THREE!

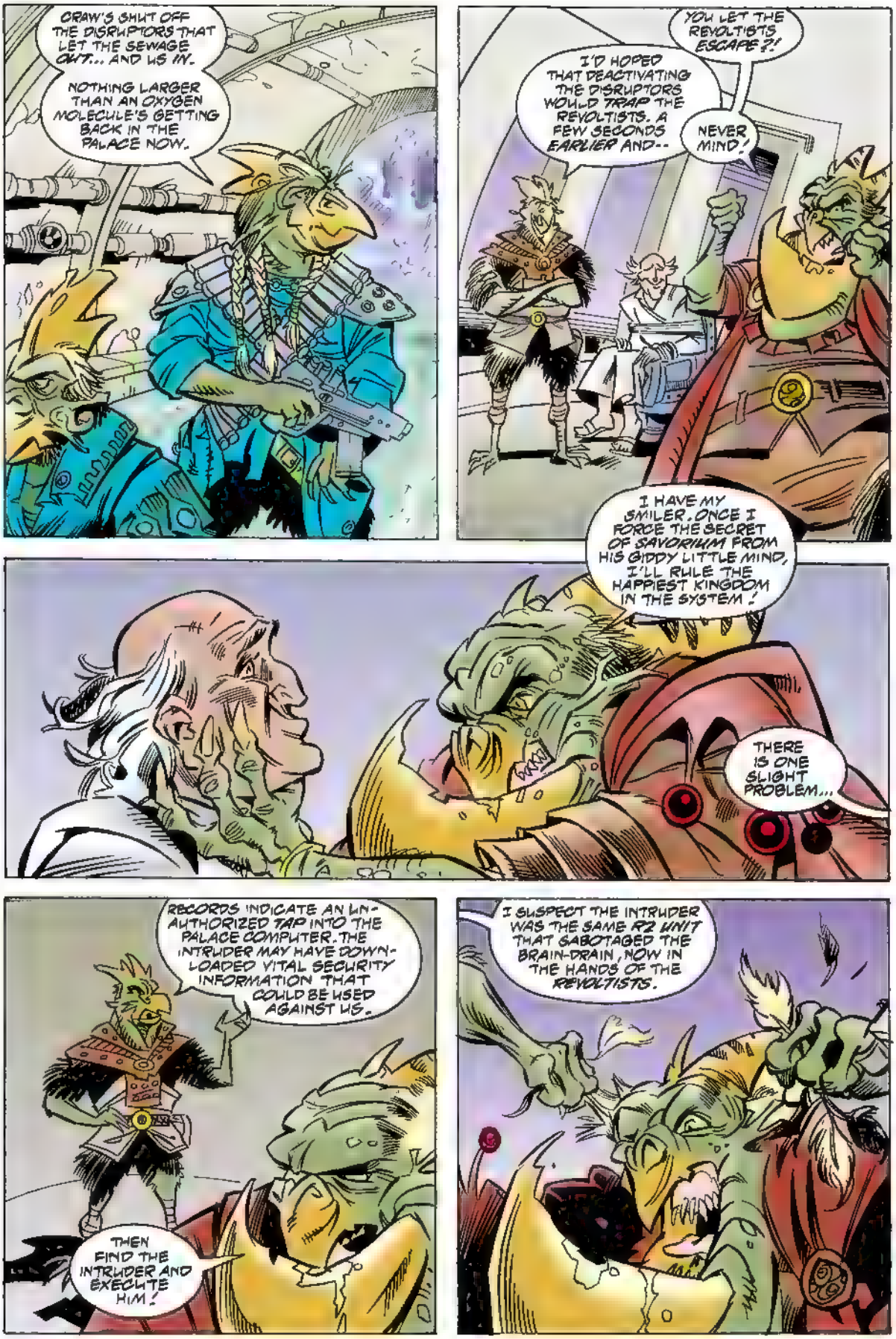
IT'S NO USE! WE'VE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!
VWIP
ZAP
THEY'RE BEATEN, CAPTAIN. WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE SURRENDER?
SURRENDER?
THERE IS NO SURRENDER. KILL THEM ALL. CRAW COMMANDOS IT.
MAY THOSE WHO FOLLOW US SUCCEED... WHERE WE HAVE FAILED.

KRASSSH!
THIS WAY! BACK TO THE HOLE!
I WOULD SAY OUR CHANCES ARE FAR BETTER WITH THE REVOLTISTS, ARTOO! HURRY!
BEEDI-BOOP! VROO-DEEP!

NOW YOU RE COMING WITH ME, LASER BRAIN!
VROOP BEE-DEEP VROOP!
ARTOO!
WAIT!
HUH?
THAT R2 UNIT WOULD BE MOST VALUABLE TO YOUR EFFORT!
NO TIME! HE LL SLOW US DOWN!
PLEASE RECONSIDER, SIR! HE IS AS MUCH AN ENEMY OF CRAW AS YOU ARE!

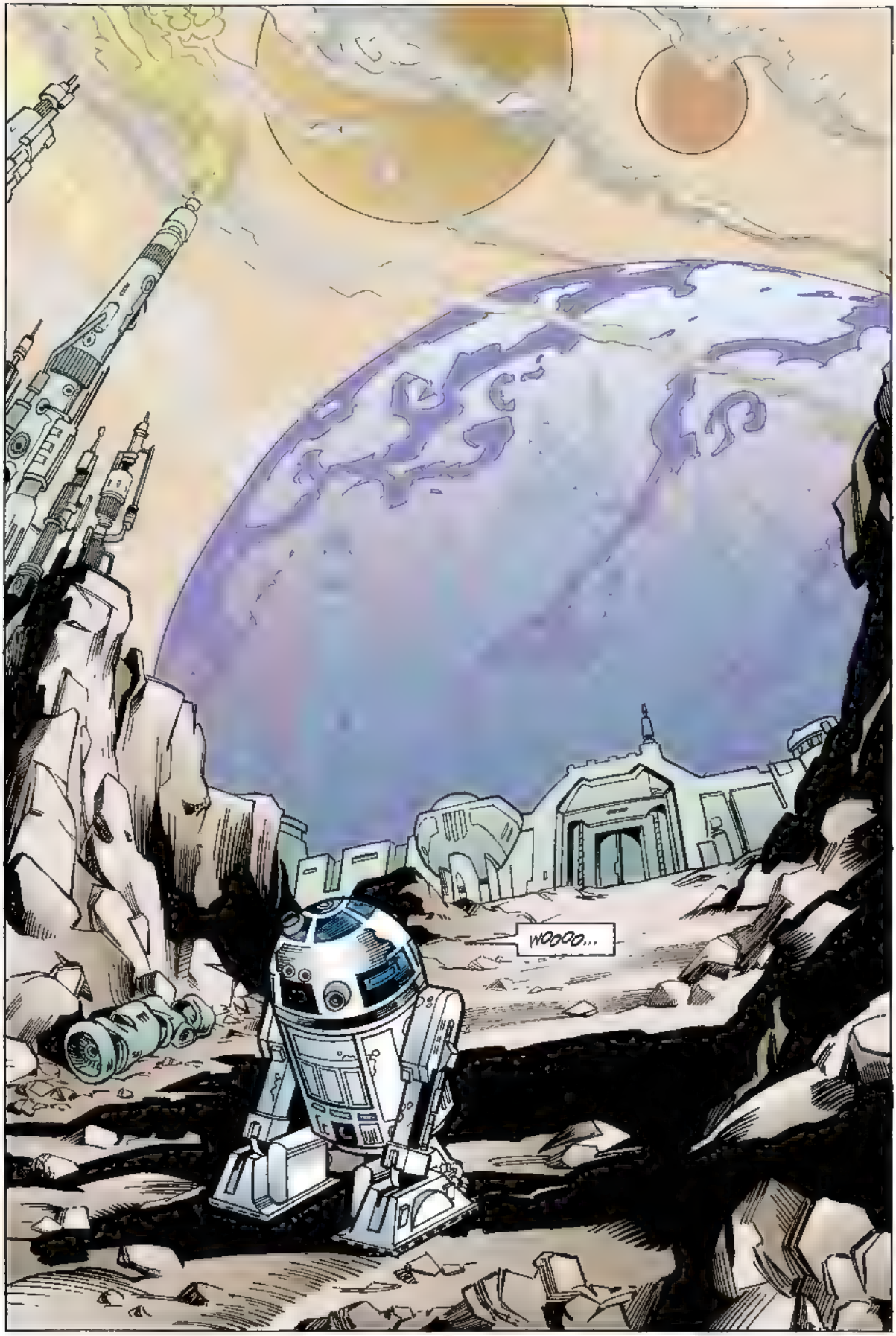

I'LL TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD, DROID!
I ASSURE YOU, YOU WON'T REGRET IT!
WHAT ARE YOU STANDING AROUND HERE FOR?
AFTER THOSE TRAITORS!
KPOW!
ZAP
GET THEM BELOW... HURRY!

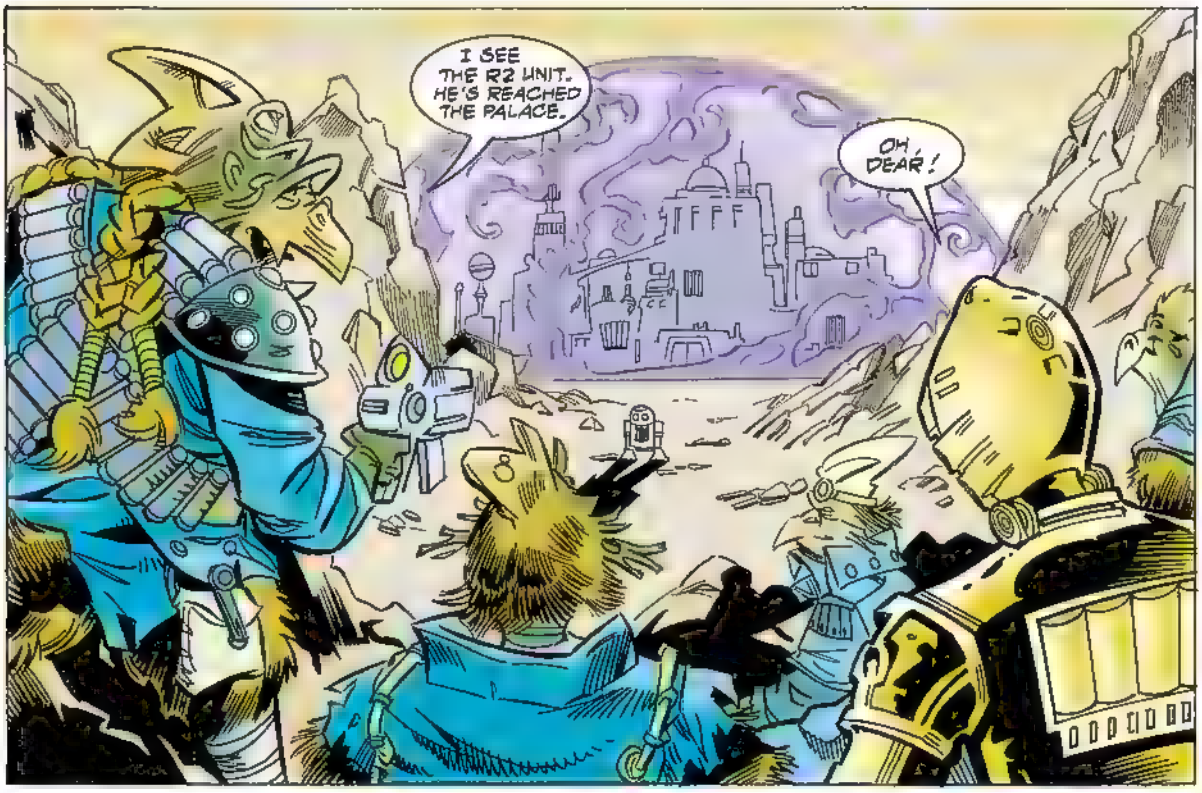

OH, MY! I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT TO DEACTIVATE MY OLFACTORY SENSORS!
HURRY, BEFORE THEY SHUT OFF THE FORCE FIELD DISRUPTORS!
ZZIPP

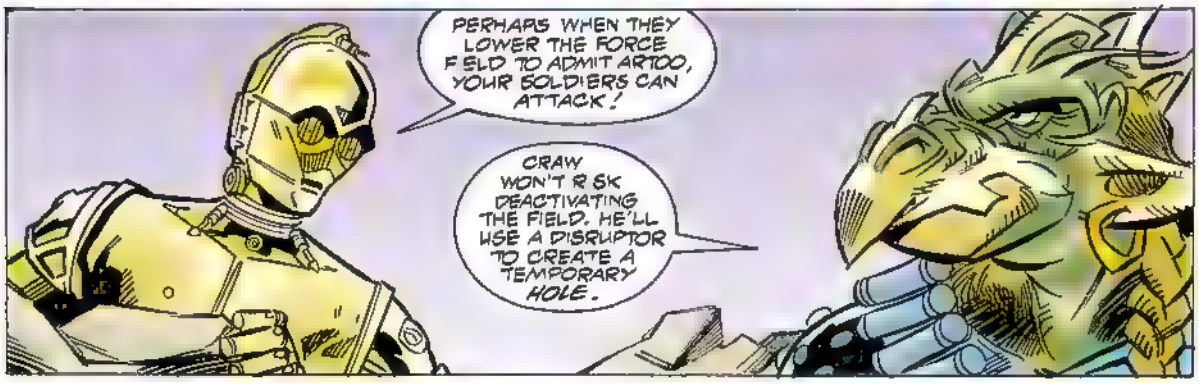

CRAW'S SHUT OFF THE DISRUPTORS THAT LET THE SEWAGE OUT... AND US IN.
NOTHING LARGER THAN AN OXYGEN MOLECULE'S GETTING BACK IN THE PALACE NOW.
YOU LET THE REVOLTISTS ESCAPE?!
I'D HOPED THAT DEACTIVATING THE DISRUPTORS WOULD TRAP THE REVOLTISTS. A FEW SECONDS EARLIER AND--
NEVER MIND!
I HAVE MY SMILER. ONCE I FORCE THE SECRET OF SAVORIUM FROM HIS GIDDY LITTLE MIND, I'LL RULE THE HAPPIEST KINGDOM IN THE SYSTEM!
THERE IS ONE SLIGHT PROBLEM...
RECORDS INDICATE AN UNAUTHORIZED TAP INTO THE PALACE COMPUTER. THE INTRUDER MAY HAVE DOWNLOADED VITAL SECURITY INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED AGAINST US.
I SUSPECT THE INTRUDER WAS THE SAME R2 UNIT THAT SABOTAGED THE BRAIN-DRAIN, NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE REVOLTISTS.
THEN FIND THE INTRUDER AND EXECUTE HIM!

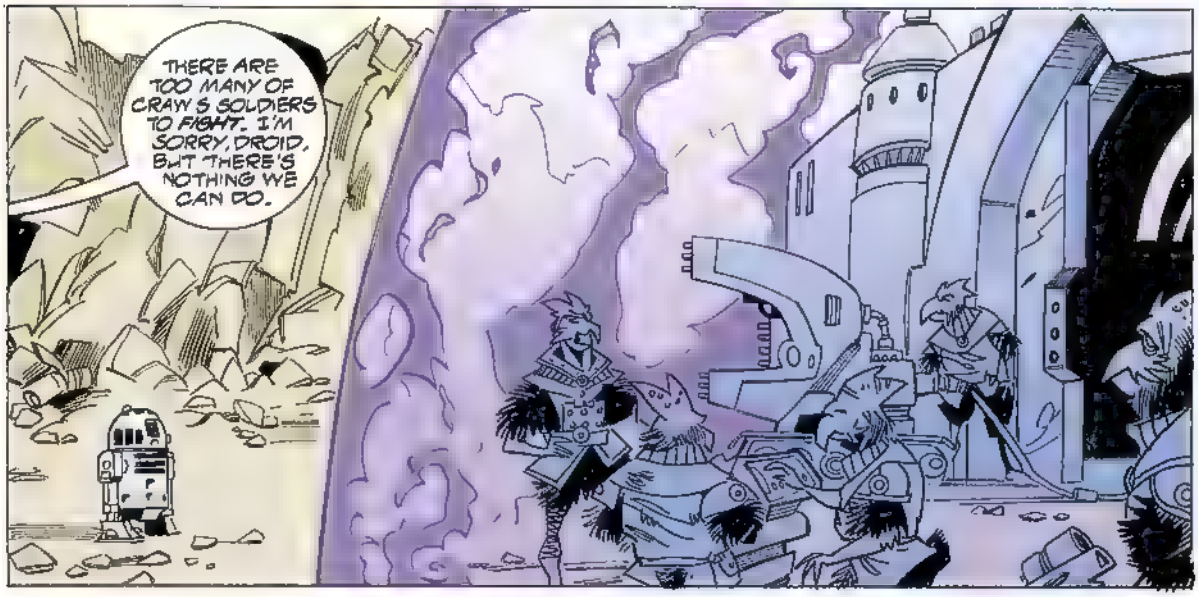
MY NAME IS SHAY, AND THESE ARE MY COMRADES. WE RE DEDICATED TO THE OVERTHROW OF DICTATOR-FOR-NOW CRAW.
ARE YOU WITH US, DROID, OR DO WE NEED TO REPROGRAM YOUR MEMORY BANKS?
THE R2 UNIT AND MYSELF ARE UNDER NO PROGRAMMING FROM DICTATOR CRAW! QUITE THE CONTRARY--
--ARTOO'S PROGRAMMING COMPELS HIM TO BEHAVE IN A MANNER CRAW FINDS MOST DISRUPTIVE!
UHM... AND YOU SAY HE POSSESSES DATA THAT COULD HELP US DISABLE CRAW'S FORCE FIELD?
ALMOST CERTAINLY! ONCE HE RECOVERS, HE'LL BE A WELLSPRING OF INFORMATION!
WHEN THE FORCE FIELD WENT DOWN, IT WAS TO BE THE SIGNAL FOR ALL LOCAL REVOLTIST FORCES TO STORM THE PALACE. BUT OUR ONE MEANS OF ENTRY IS NOW CLOSED.
COMMANDER SHAY...!
WE'RE RECEIVING A COMMUNICATION FROM DICTATOR-FOR-NOW CRAW!

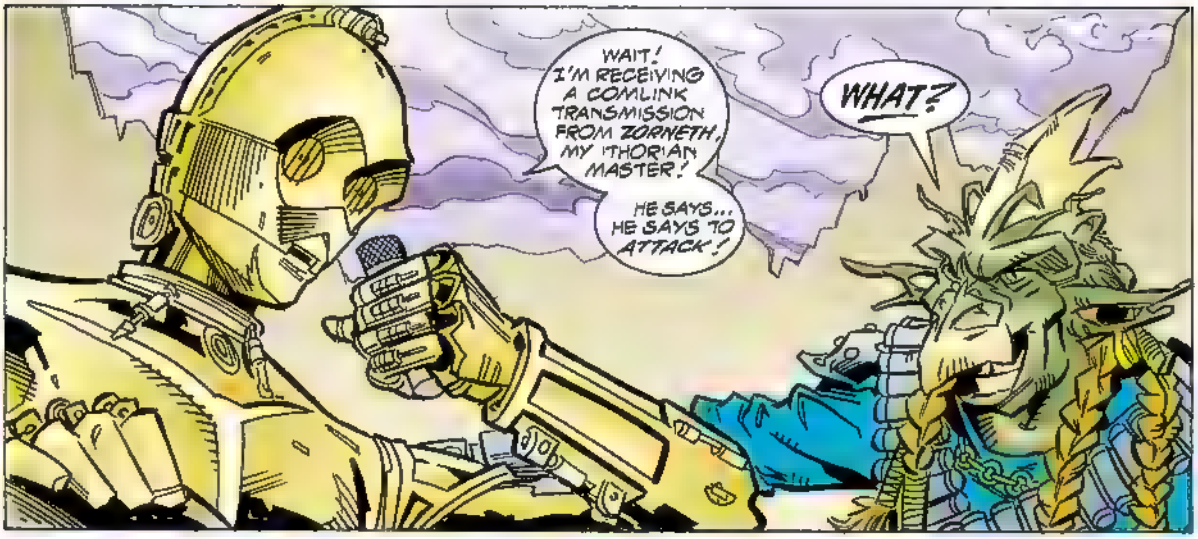
I'LL MAKE THIS BRIEF, SHAY. I WANT THE R2 UNIT... NOW.
RETURN HIM TO ME, AND I'LL RELEASE THE SMILER! THE CHOICE IS YOURS!
AN OBVIOUS PLOY! CRAW WOULD CERTAINLY DESTROY ARTOO, AND HE HAS NO INTENTION OF RELEASING SMILEY!
WE SEE IT THE SAME, DROID. HE'S OFFERING US NOTHING... AS USUAL.
NONETHELESS, IT WOULD BE BEST IF THIS INFORMATION WERE WITHHELD FROM ARTOO!
HE IS STILL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE CARETAKER VIRUS...AND... ARTOO!
HE'S GONE!

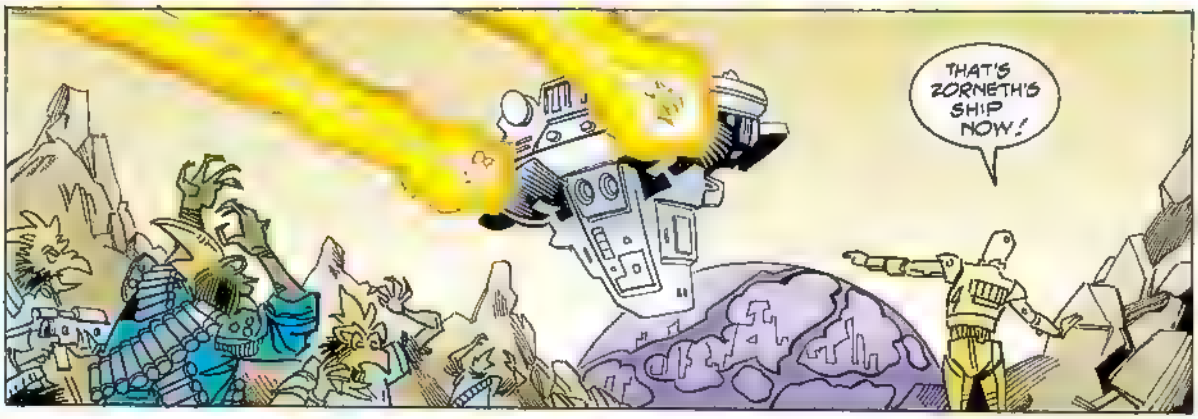

WOOOO...


I SEE THE R2 UNIT. HE'S REACHED THE PALACE.
OH DEAR!


PERHAPS WHEN THEY LOWER THE FORCE FIELD TO ADMIT ARTOO, YOUR SOLDIERS CAN ATTACK!
CRAW WON'T RISK DEACTIVATING THE FIELD. HE'LL USE A DISRUPTOR TO CREATE A TEMPORARY HOLE.


THERE ARE TOO MANY OF CRAW'S SOLDIERS TO FIGHT. I'M SORRY, DROID, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.


WAIT! I'M RECEIVING A COMLINK TRANSMISSION FROM ZORNETH, MY THOR'IAN MASTER!
HE SAYS... HE SAYS TO ATTACK!
WHAT?

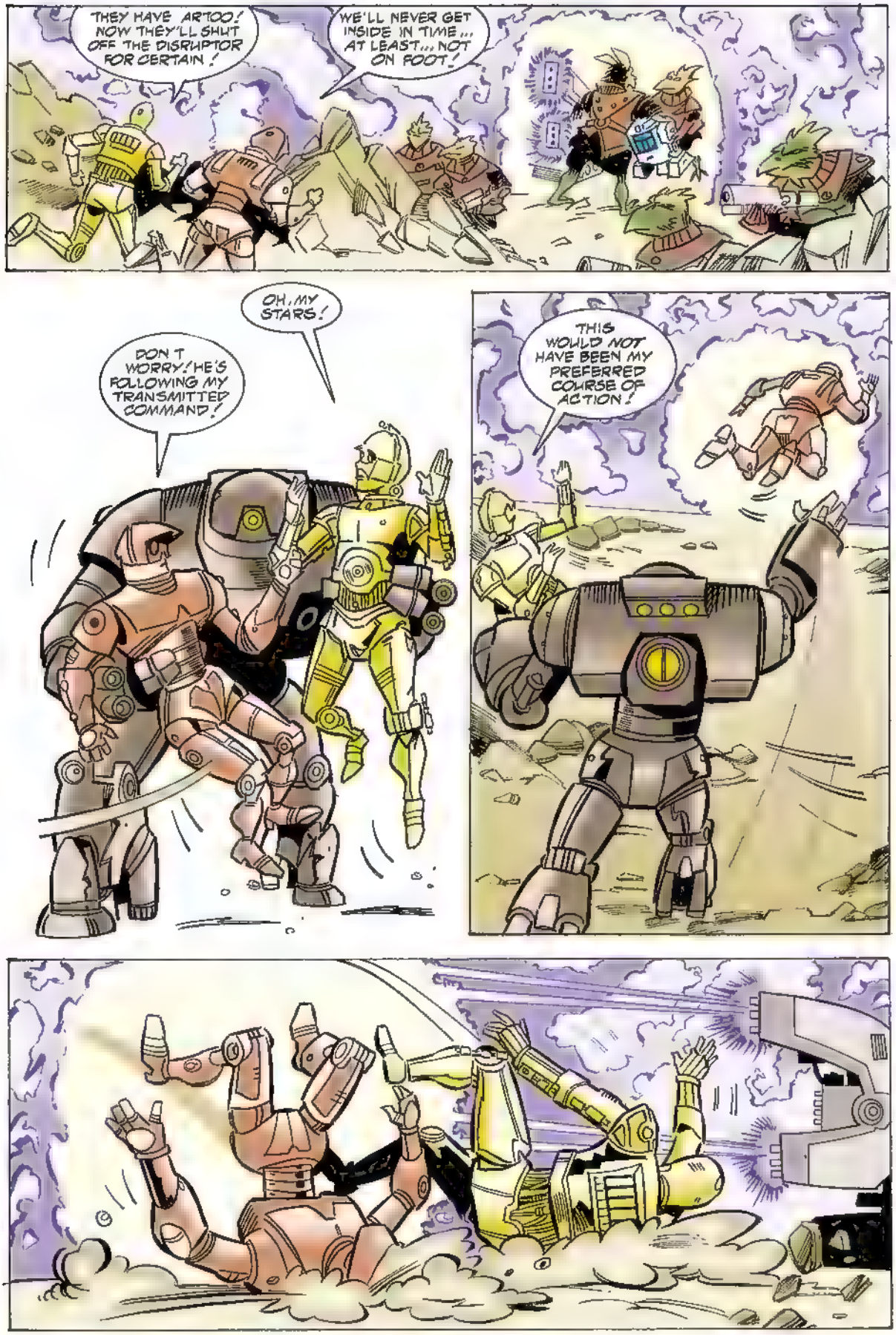

THAT'S ZORNETH'S SHIP NOW!

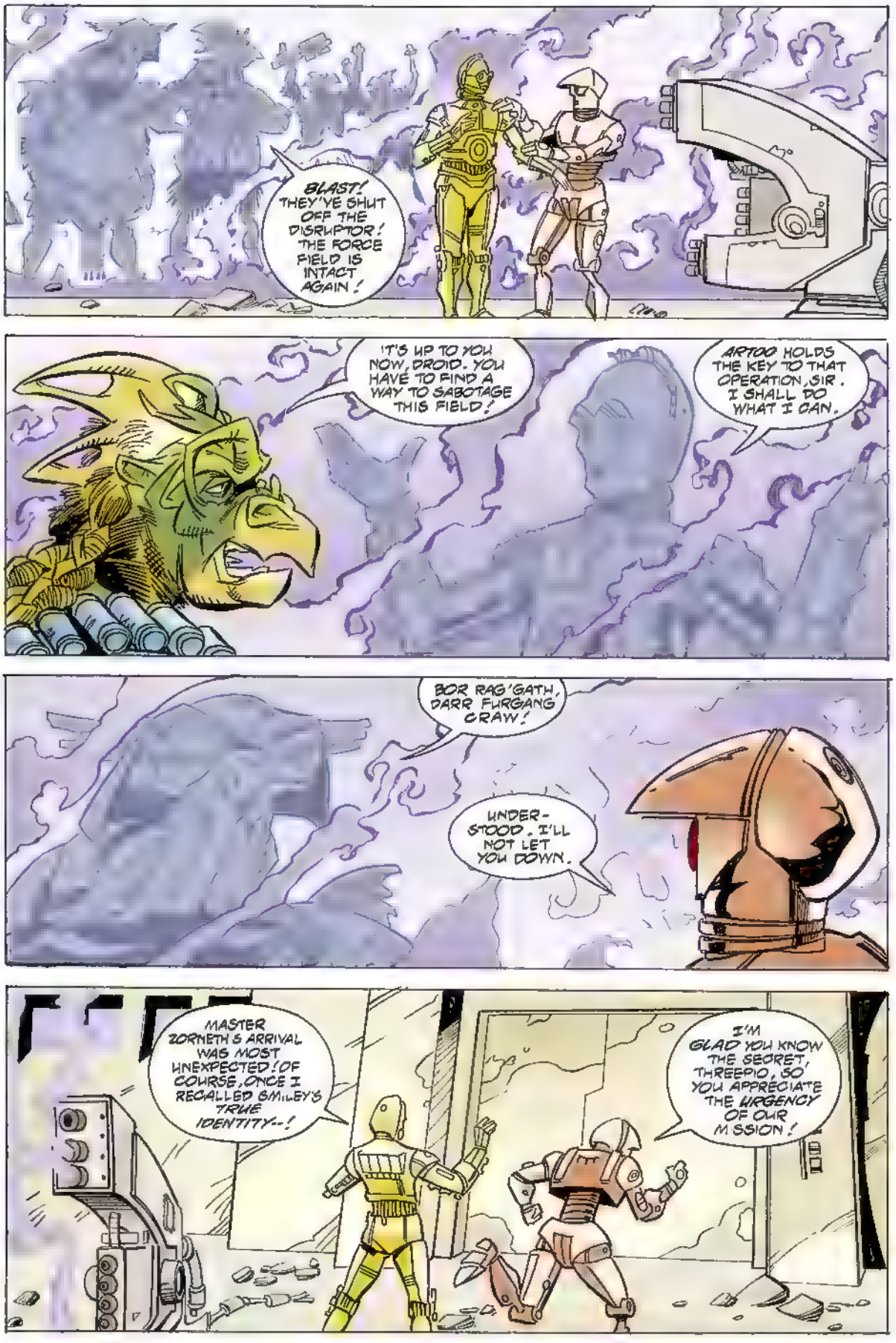
VOO-DOOO VREEP?

WELL, WE CAN'T STAND HERE PREENING OURSELVES WHILE SOMEONE ELSE DOES ALL THE FIGHTING!
CHARGE!

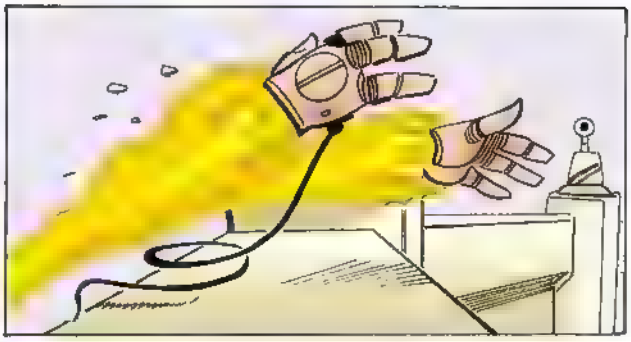
ARTOO! WAIT! YOU AREN'T BEHAVING LOGICALLY!
GORBREGA!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, ARTOO! STOP!

SAZAAR! SAZAAR!
YOU DON'T SAY!
MY BROTHERS, HEAR ME!
A GREAT BATTLE RAGES AT THE PALACE!
ASSEMBLE YOUR WEAPONS! WHEN THE DICTATOR'S FORCE FIELD COLLAPSES...
...WE REVOLT!

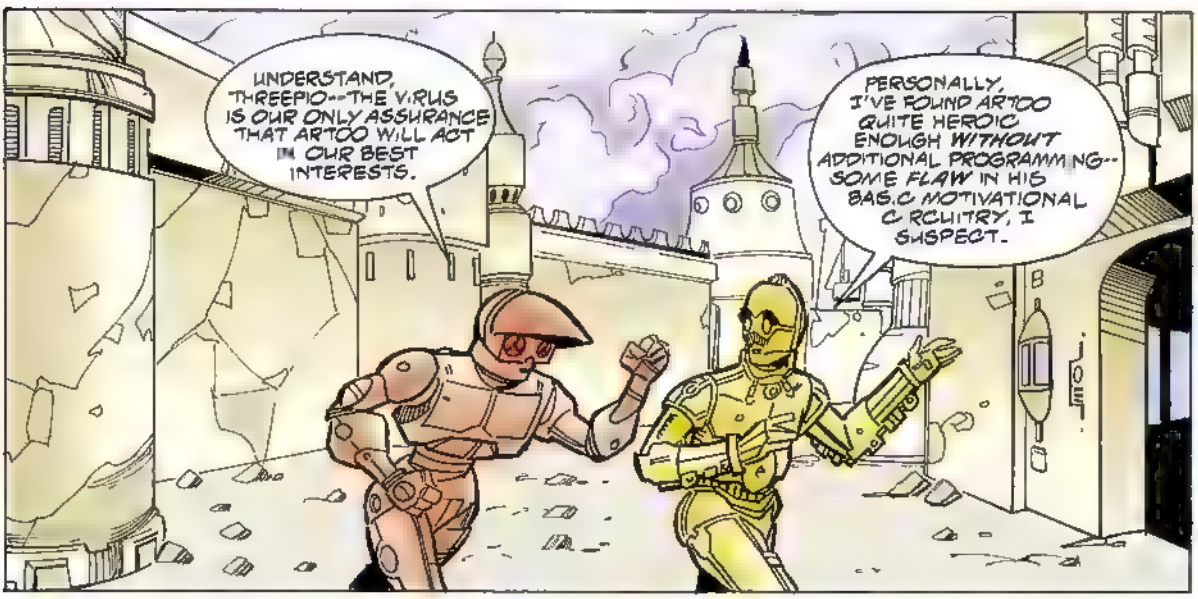

THEY HAVE ARTOO! NOW THEY'LL SHUT OFF THE DISRUPTOR FOR CERTAIN!
WE'LL NEVER GET INSIDE IN TIME... AT LEAST... NOT ON FOOT!
OH, MY STARS!
DON'T WORRY! HE'S FOLLOWING MY TRANSMITTED COMMAND!
THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MY PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION!

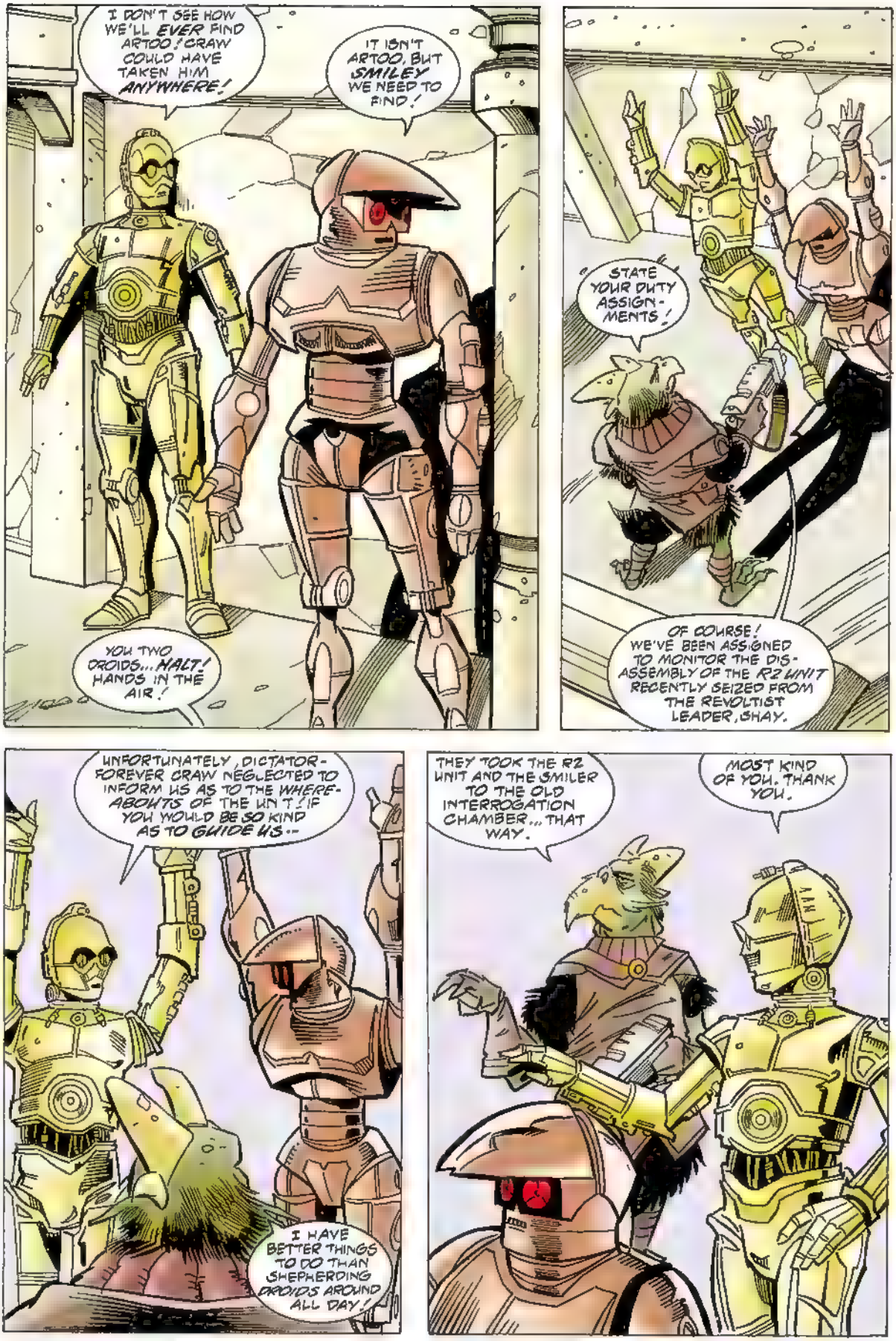

BLAST! THEY'VE SHUT OFF THE DISRUPTOR! THE FORCE FIELD IS INTACT AGAIN!
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW, DROID. YOU HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO SABOTAGE THIS FIELD!
ARTOO HOLDS THE KEY TO THAT OPERATION, SIR. I SHALL DO WHAT I CAN.
BOR RAG'GATH, DARR FURGANG CRAW!
UNDER-STOOD. I'LL NOT LET YOU DOWN.
MASTER ZORNETH'S ARRIVAL WAS MOST UNEXPECTED! OF COURSE, ONCE I RECALLED SMILEY'S TRUE IDENTITY--!
I'M GLAD YOU KNOW THE SECRET, THREEPIO, SO YOU APPRECIATE THE URGENCY OF OUR MISSION!

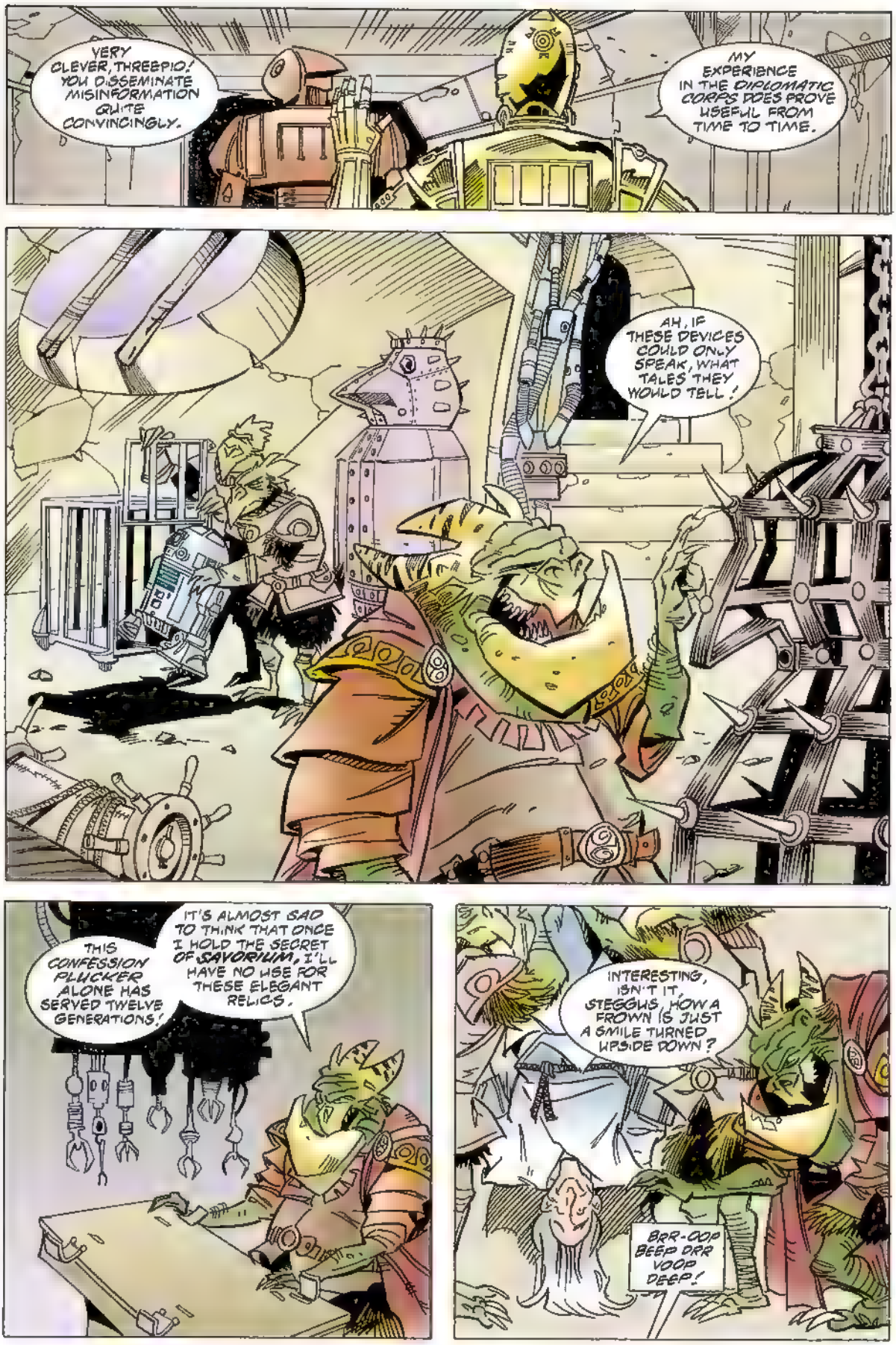
THE SECRET OF GROWING SAVORIUM MUST NOT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF SOMEONE LIKE CRAW WHO WOULD USE IT TO ENSLAVE THE MASSES!
I QUITE AGREE, AND SO WOULD ARTOO, EVEN WITHOUT THE CARETAKER VIRUS.

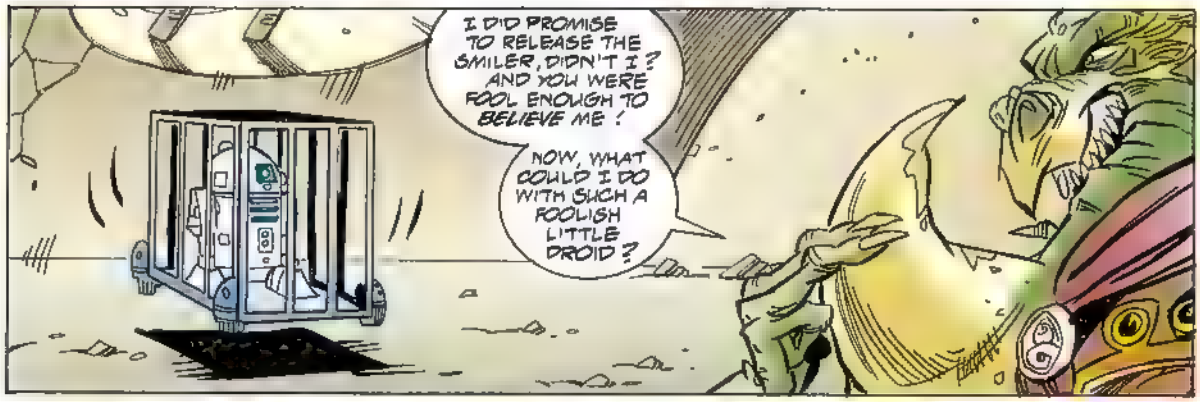


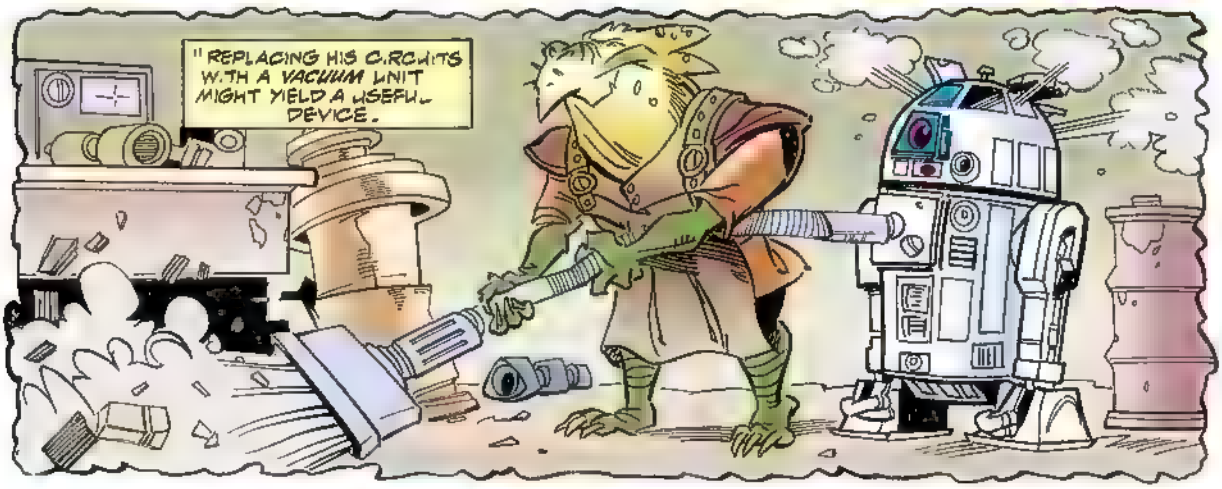
I ASSUME THAT YOU IMPLANTED IT WHEN YOU REPAIRED HIM ON MASTER ZORNETH'S SHIP--
--AND THAT IT'S JUST AS EASILY REMOVED.
YES, BUT I DARE NOT DO SO!

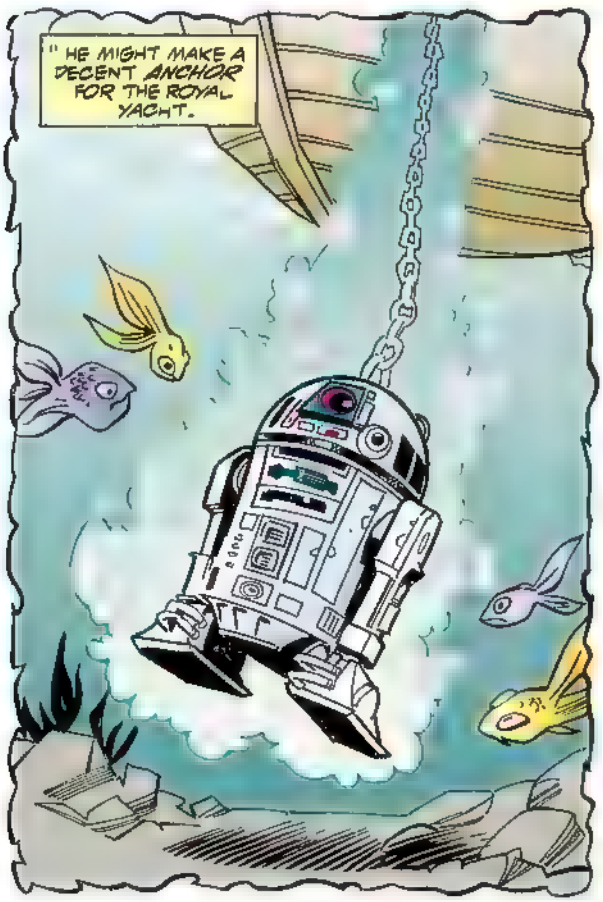

UNDERSTAND, THREEPIO--THE VIRUS IS OUR ONLY ASSURANCE THAT ARTOO WILL ACT IN OUR BEST INTERESTS.
PERSONALLY, I'VE FOUND ARTOO QUITE HEROIC ENOUGH WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING--SOME FLAW IN HIS BASIC MOTIVATIONAL CIRCUITRY, I SUSPECT.

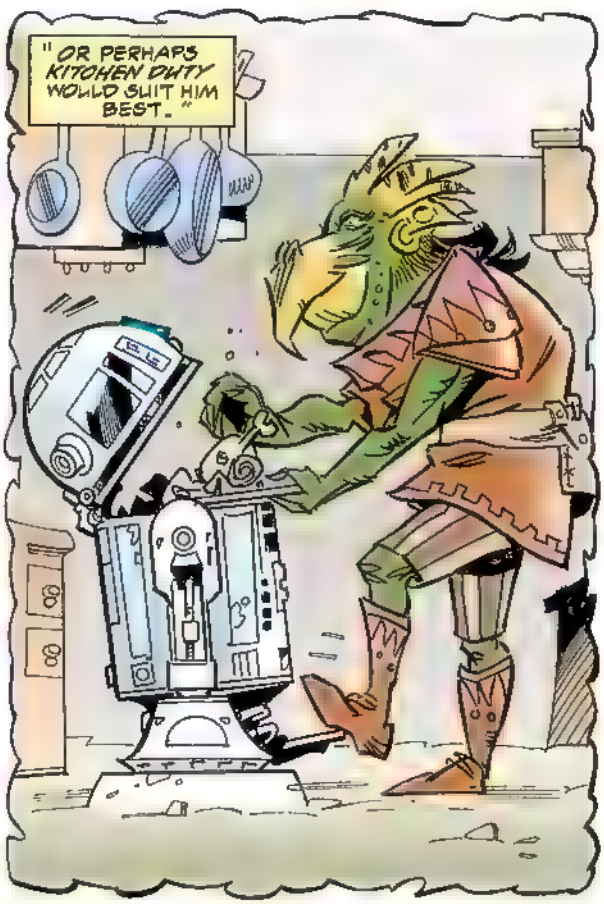

I DON'T SEE HOW WE'LL EVER FIND ARTOO! CRAW COULD HAVE TAKEN HIM ANYWHERE!
IT ISN'T ARTOO, BUT SMILEY WE NEED TO FIND!
YOU TWO DROIDS... HALT! HANDS IN THE AIR!
STATE YOUR DUTY ASSIGN-MENTS!
OF COURSE! WE'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO MONITOR THE DIS-ASSEMBLY OF THE R2 UNIT RECENTLY SEIZED FROM THE REVOLTIST LEADER, SHAY.
UNFORTUNATELY, DICTATOR-FOREVER CRAW NEGLECTED TO INFORM US AS TO THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF THE UNIT! IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO GUIDE US--
I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN SHEPHERDING DROIDS AROUND ALL DAY!
THEY TOOK THE R2 UNIT AND THE SMILER TO THE OLD INTERROGATION CHAMBER... THAT WAY.
MOST KIND OF YOU. THANK YOU.

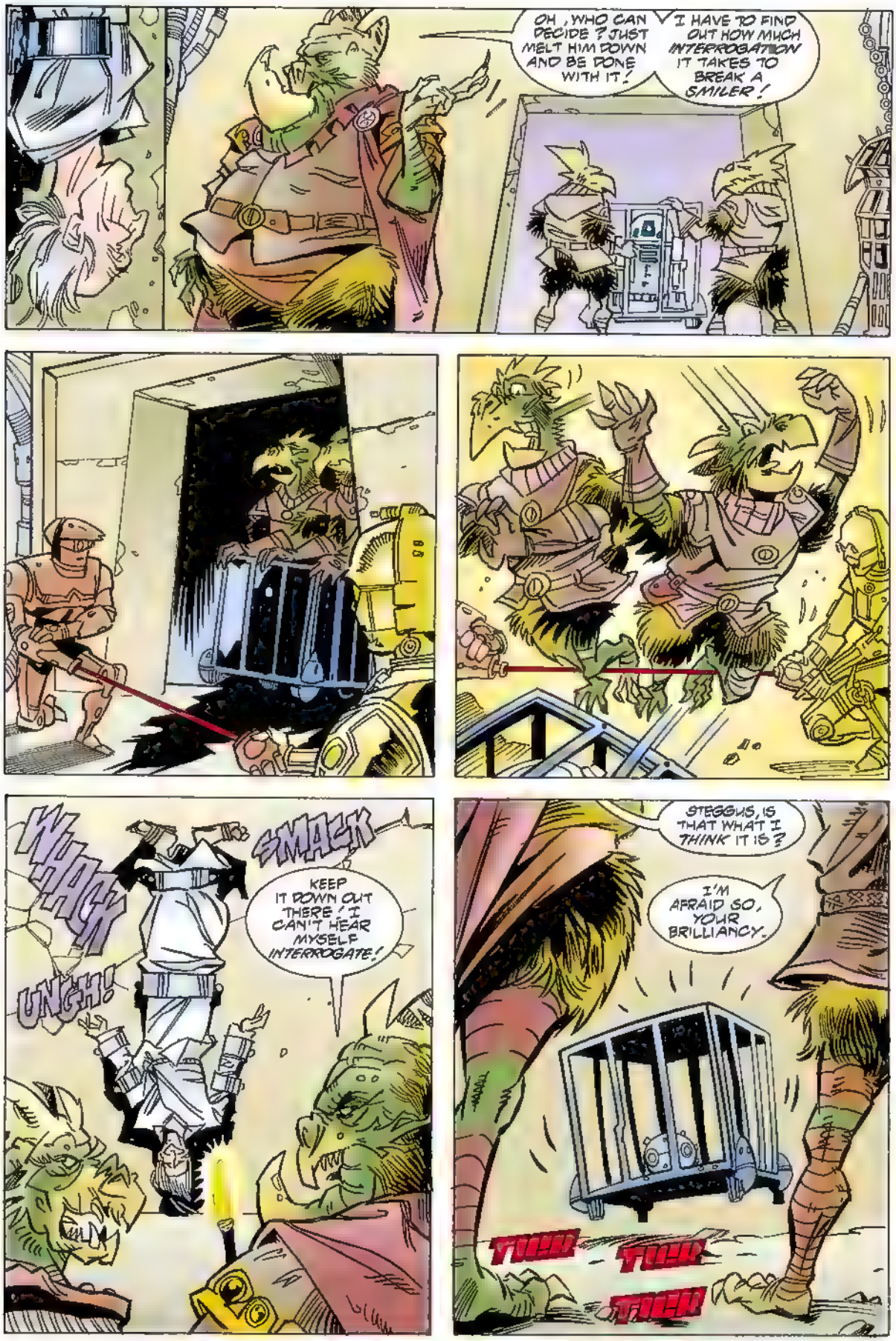

VERY CLEVER, THREEPIO! YOU DISSEMINATE MISINFORMATION QUITE CONVINCINGLY.
MY EXPERIENCE IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS DOES PROVE USEFUL FROM TIME TO TIME.
AH, IF THESE DEVICES COULD ONLY SPEAK, WHAT TALES THEY WOULD TELL!
THIS CONFESSION PLUCKER ALONE HAS SERVED TWELVE GENERATIONS!
IT'S ALMOST SAD TO THINK THAT ONCE I HOLD THE SECRET OF SAVORIUM, I'LL HAVE NO USE FOR THESE ELEGANT RELICS.
INTERESTING, ISN'T IT, STEGGUS, HOW A FROWN IS JUST A SMILE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN?
BRR-OOP BEEP DRR VOOP DEEP!

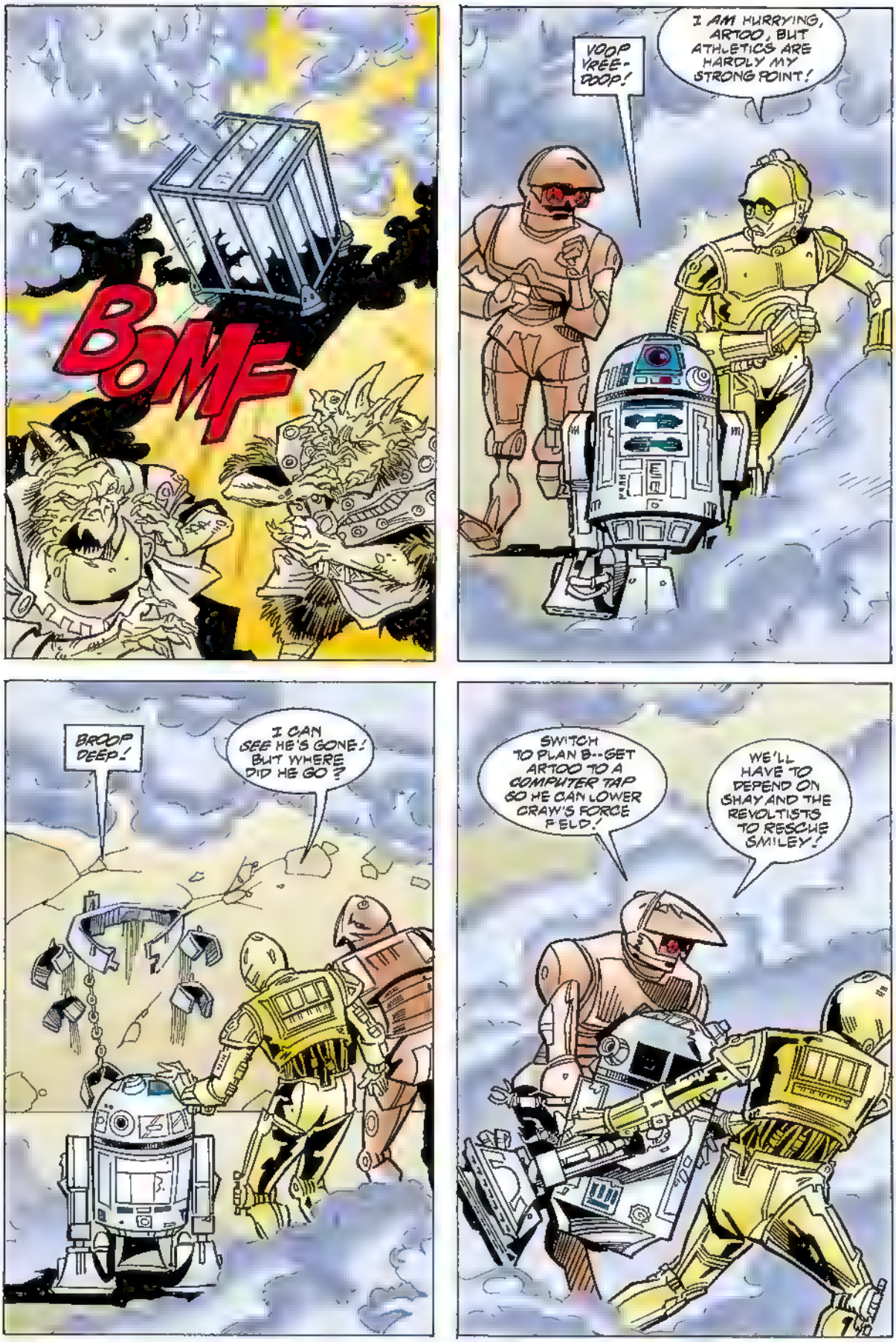

I DID PROMISE TO RELEASE THE SMILER, DIDN'T I? AND YOU WERE FOOL ENOUGH TO BELIEVE ME!
NOW, WHAT COULD I DO WITH SUCH A FOOLISH LITTLE DROID?


"REPLACING HIS CIRCUITS WITH A VACUUM UNIT MIGHT YIELD A USEFUL DEVICE.

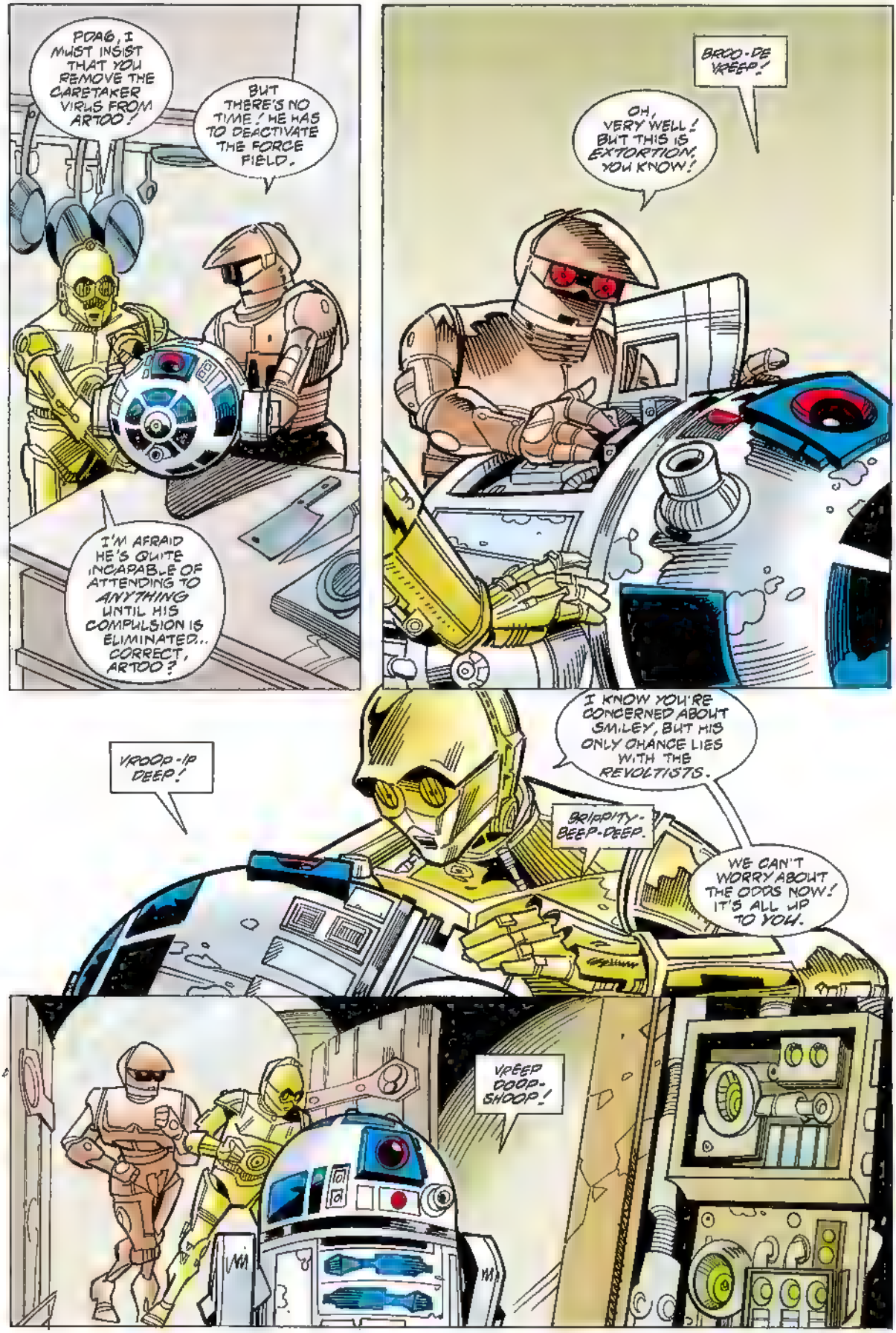

"HE MIGHT MAKE A DECENT ANCHOR FOR THE ROYAL YACHT.

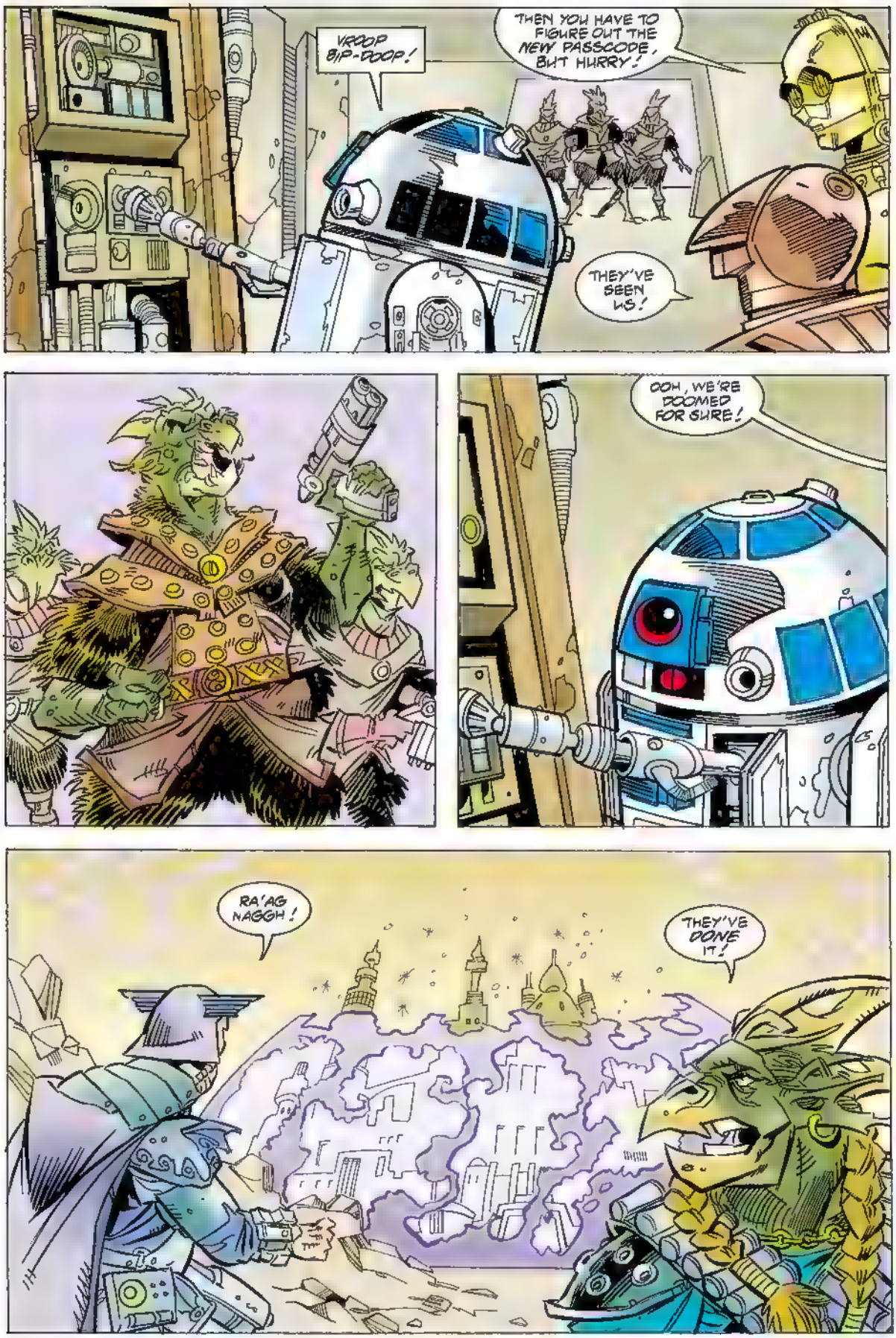

"OR PERHAPS KITCHEN DUTY WOULD SUIT HIM BEST."

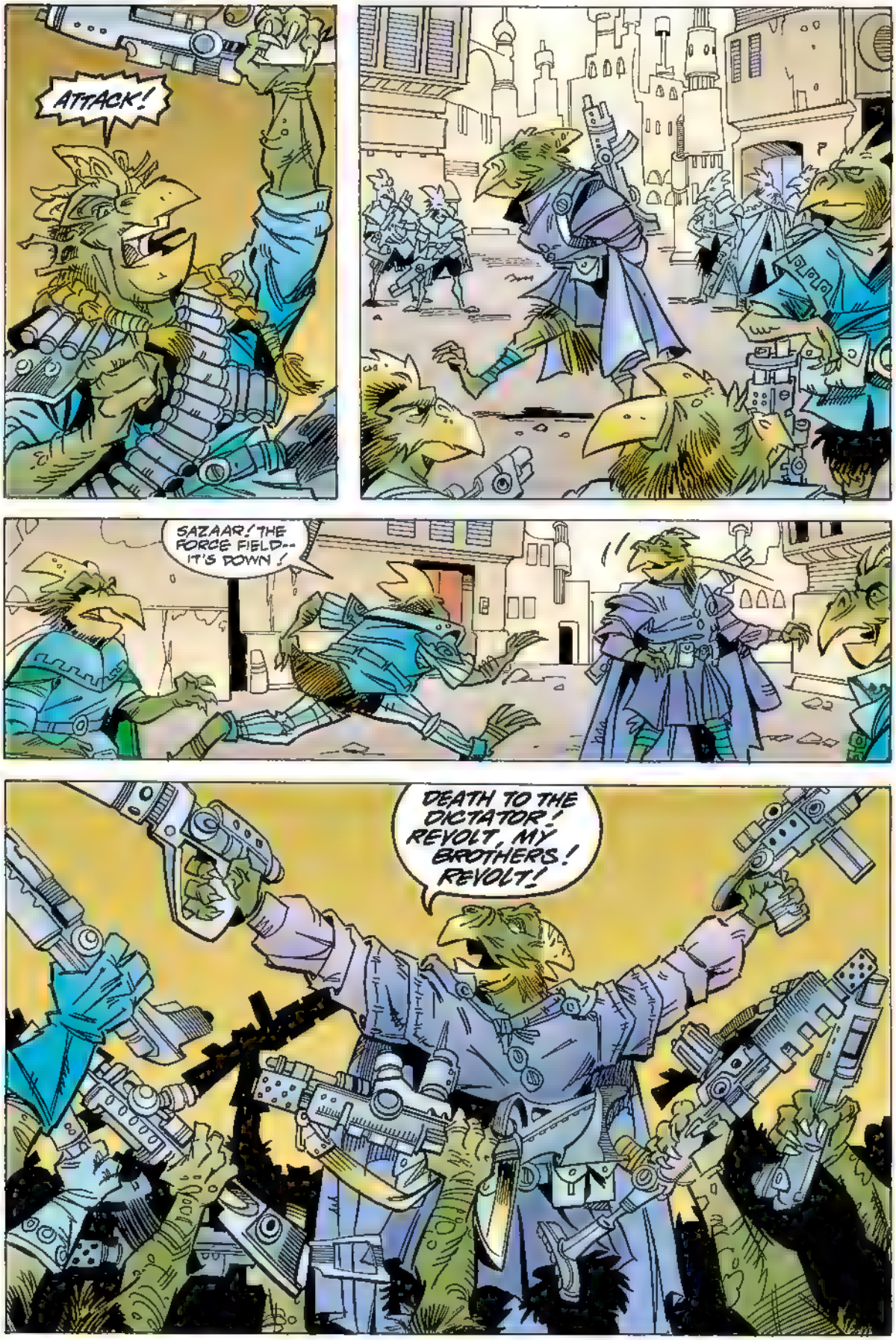

OH, WHO CAN DECIDE? JUST MELT HIM DOWN AND BE DONE WITH IT!
I HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH INTERROGATION IT TAKES TO BREAK A SMILER!
WHACK
SMACK
UNGH!
KEEP IT DOWN OUT THERE! I CAN'T HEAR MYSELF INTERROGATE!
STEGGUS, IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?
I'M AFRAID SO, YOUR BRILLIANCY.
TILLY
TILLY
TILLY

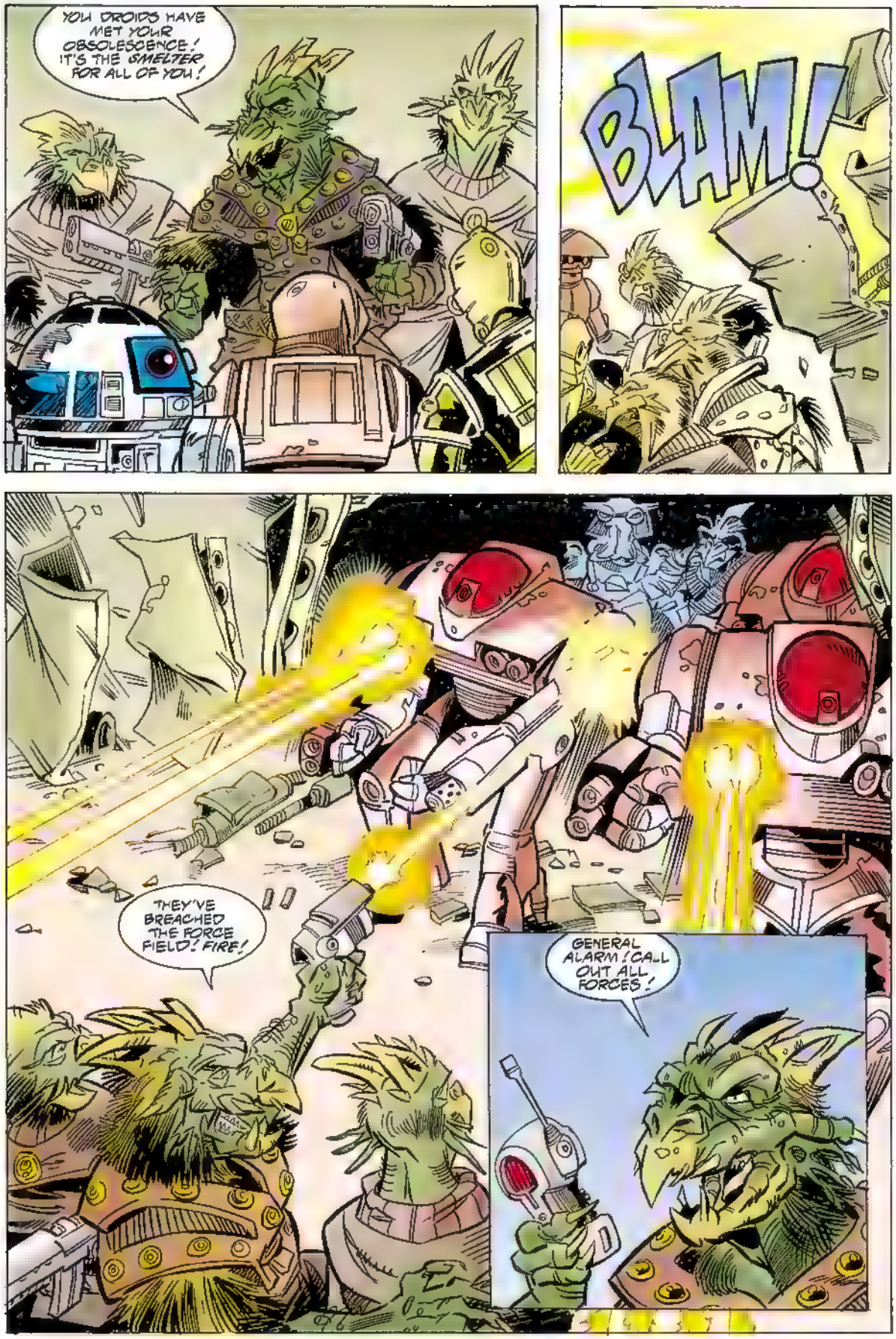

BOMF
VOOP VREE-DOOP!
I AM HURRYING, ARTOO, BUT ATHLETICS ARE HARDLY MY STRONG POINT!
BROOP DEEP!
I CAN SEE HE'S GONE! BUT WHERE DID HE GO?
SWITCH TO PLAN B--GET ARTOO TO A COMPUTER TAP SO HE CAN LOWER CRAW'S FORCE FIELD!
WE'LL HAVE TO DEPEND ON SHAY AND THE REVOLTISTS TO RESCUE SMILEY!

VRIP DIPPITY BROOP-BOOP!
THERE'S NO CALL FOR THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE, ARTOO! WE'RE SAVING YOU AND THAT'S THAT!
AFTER THEM, STEGGUS! DON'T LET THAT TROUBLESOME R2 UNIT ESCAPE!
WHAT ABOUT THE SMILER? WE CAN'T LET HIM GO WANDERING AROUND ON HIS OWN!
I'LL SEND TROOPS TO RELIEVE YOU SOON, YOUR BRILLIANCY!
IN THERE! HURRY!


PDA6, I MUST INSIST THAT YOU REMOVE THE CARETAKER VIRUS FROM ARTOO!
BUT THERE'S NO TIME! HE HAS TO DEACTIVATE THE FORCE FIELD.
I'M AFRAID HE'S QUITE INCAPABLE OF ATTENDING TO ANYTHING UNTIL HIS COMPULSION IS ELIMINATED.. CORRECT, ARTOO?
BROO-DE VREEP!
OH, VERY WELL! BUT THIS IS EXTORTION, YOU KNOW!
I KNOW YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT SMILEY, BUT HIS ONLY CHANCE LIES WITH THE REVOLTISTS.
VROOP-IP DEEP!
BRIPPITY-BEEP-DEEP.
WE CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THE ODDS NOW! IT'S ALL UP TO YOU.
VREEP DOOP-SHOOP!

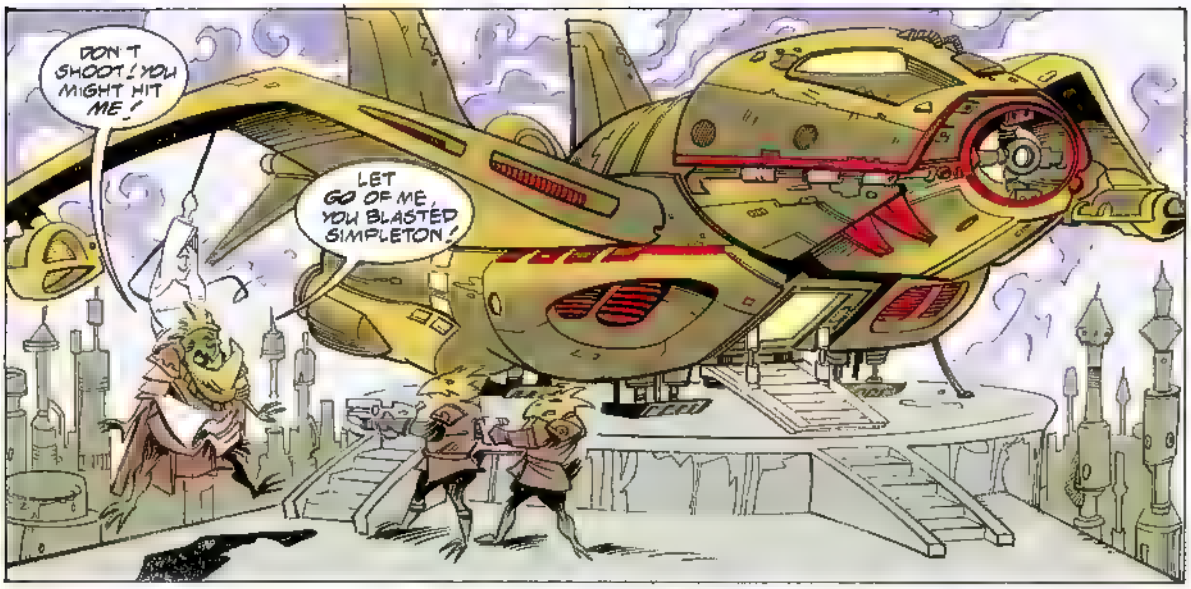

VROOP BIP-DOOP!
THEN YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THE NEW PASSCODE, BUT HURRY!
THEY'VE SEEN US!
OOH, WE'RE DOOMED FOR SURE!
RA'AG NAGGH!
THEY'VE DONE IT!

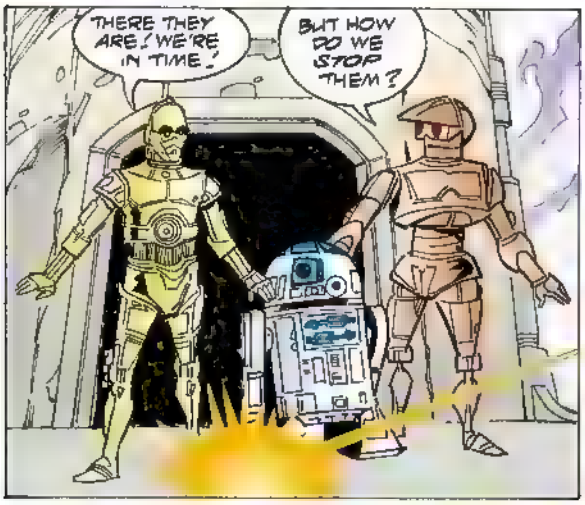

ATTACK!
SAZAAR! THE FORCE FIELD-- IT'S DOWN!
DEATH TO THE DICTATOR! REVOLT, MY BROTHERS! REVOLT!

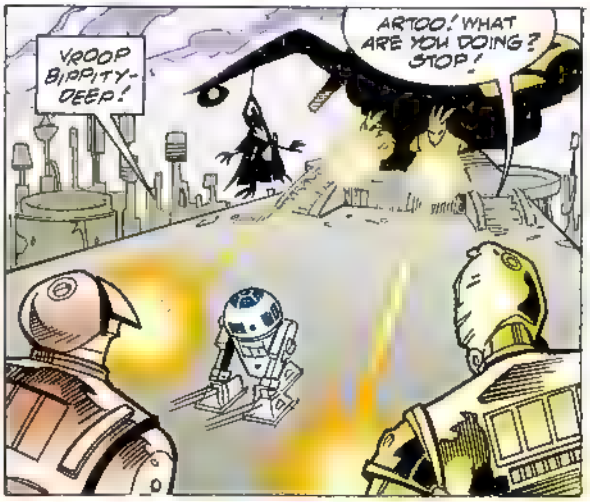

YOU DROIDS HAVE MET YOUR OBSOLESCENCE! IT'S THE SMELTER FOR ALL OF YOU!
BLAM!
THEY'VE BREACHED THE FORCE FIELD! FIRE!
GENERAL ALARM! CALL OUT ALL FORCES!

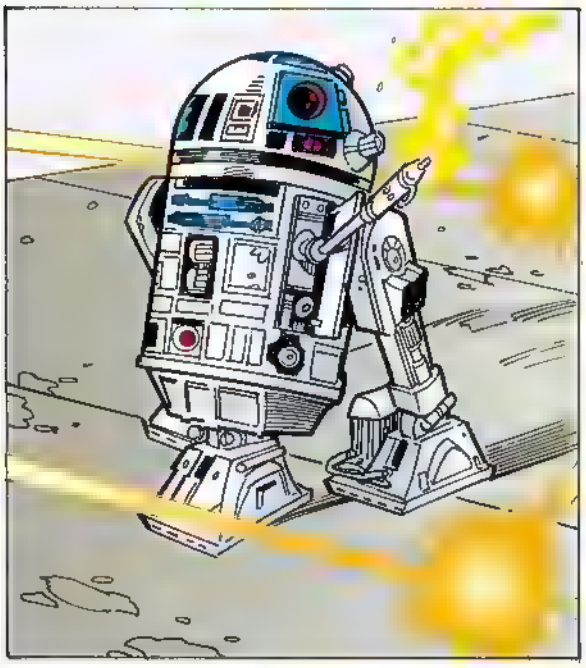
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE FORCE FIELD'S DOWN! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
ATTACK?!
GET MY CHIEF ADVISOR! TELL HIM TO ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN!
I... I THINK HE WAS EXECUTED AN HOUR AGO!
BLAST! CHIEF ADVISORS ARE NEVER AROUND WHEN YOU NEED THEM!
COME WITH ME!
BROOP VROOP VREEP!
YES, CRAW IS THE SORT TO FLEE DURING THE CONFUSION!
AND HE'LL TAKE SMILEY WITH HIM!

IF HE ESCAPES, OUR MISSION HAS FAILED!
WE HAVE THEM TRAPPED! THIS WILL SOON BE OVER!
UH, COMMANDER STEGGUS--
--THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.


DON'T SHOOT! YOU MIGHT HIT ME!
LET GO OF ME, YOU BLASTED SIMPLETON!

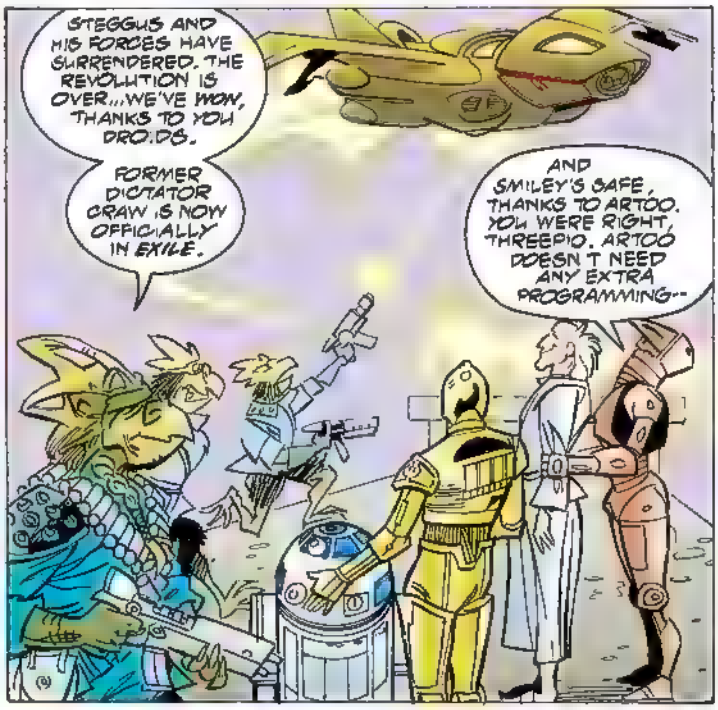

THERE THEY ARE! WE'RE IN TIME!
BUT HOW DO WE STOP THEM?

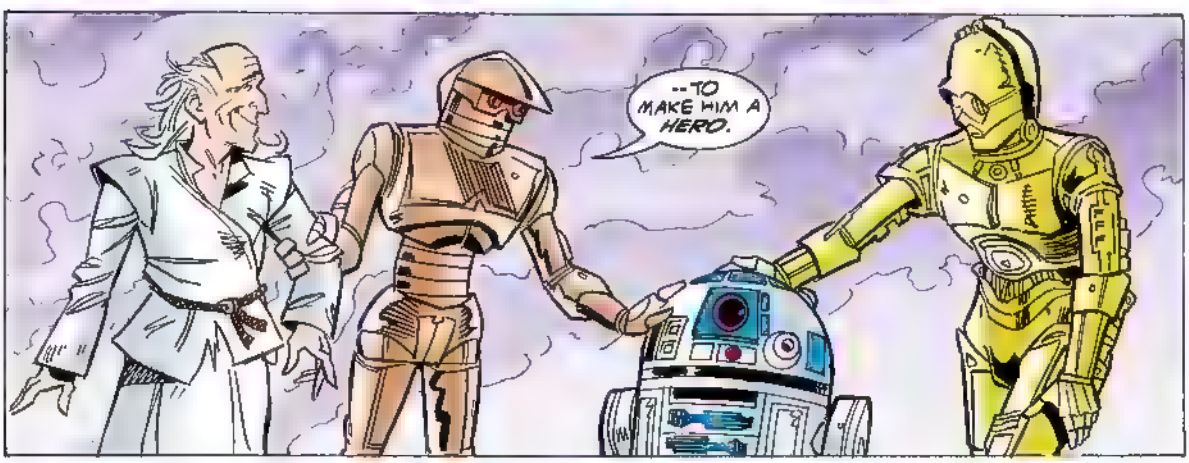

VROOP BIPPITY-DEEP!
ARTOO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP!

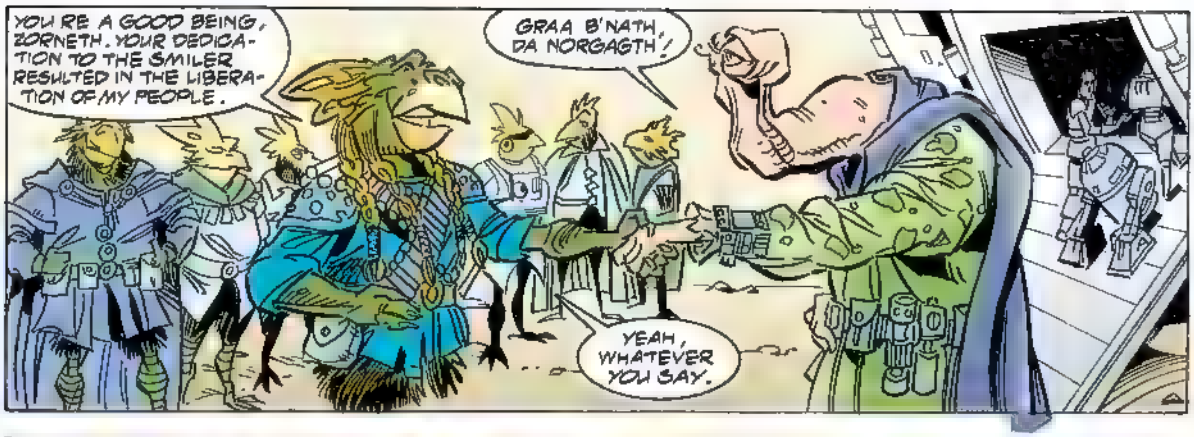


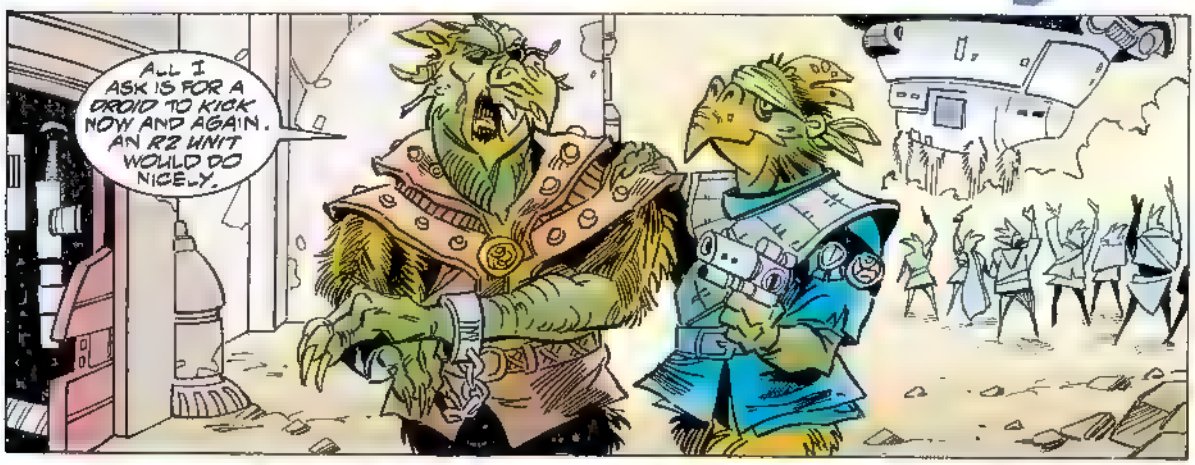
NO! I WAS SO CLOSE... SO CLOSE!
HURRY, YOUR BRILLIANCY!

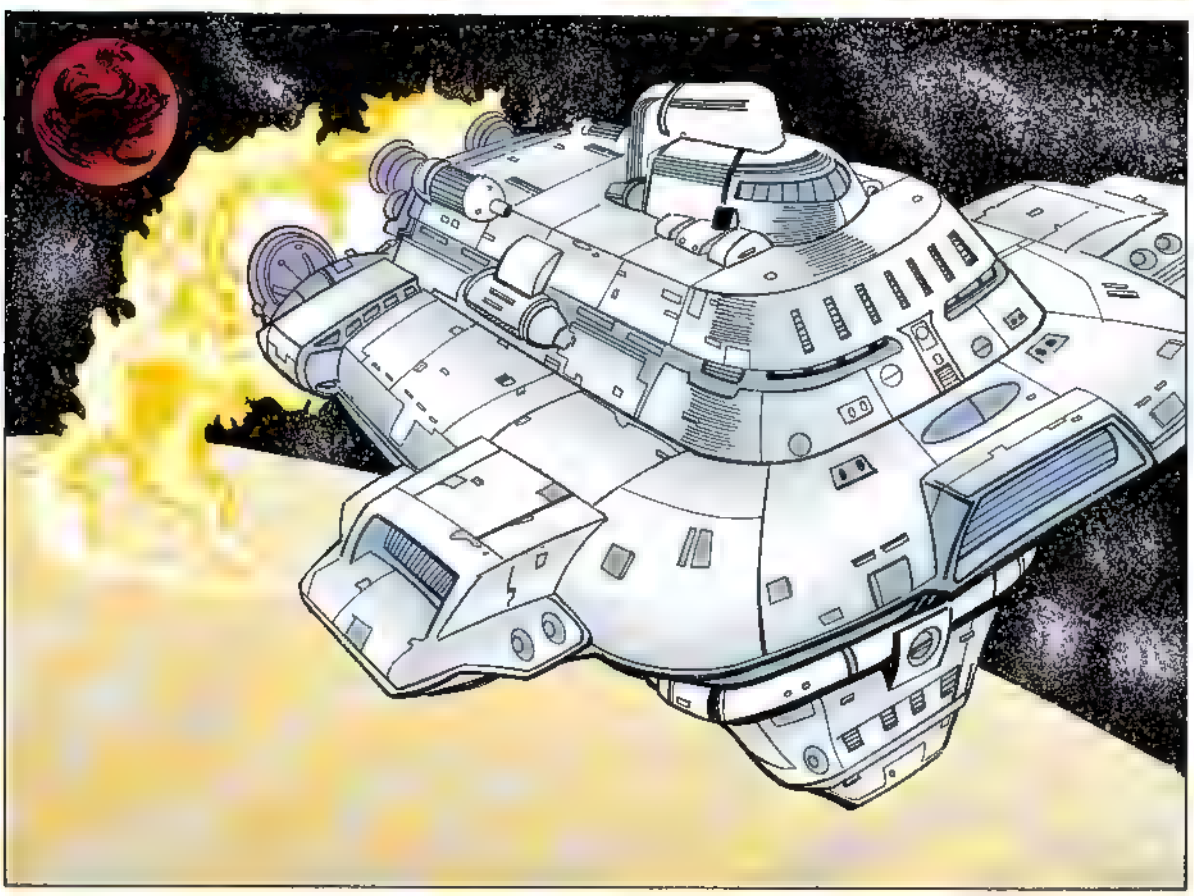
DON'T IMAGINE YOU'VE SEEN THE END OF ME, SHAY!

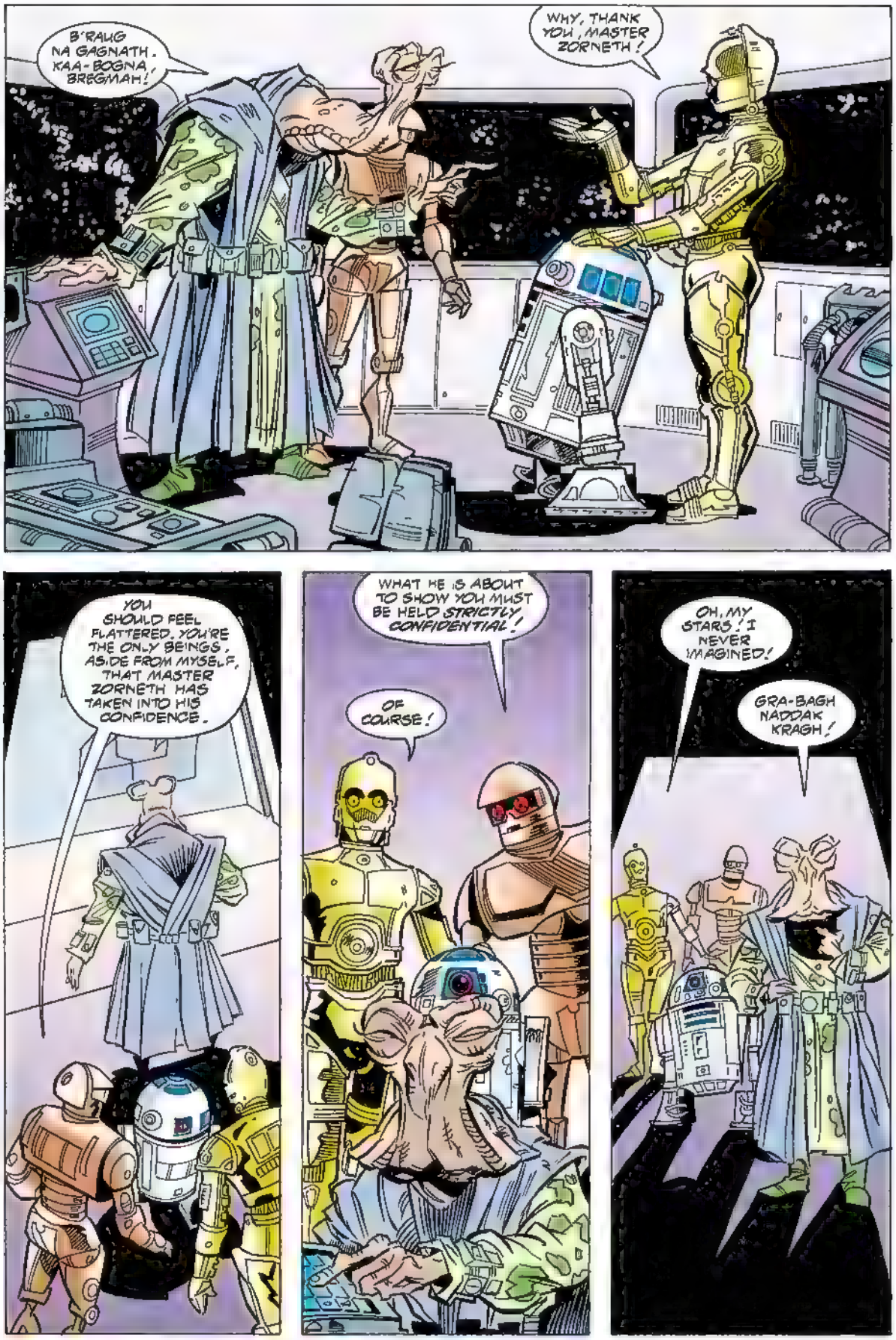

STEGGUS AND HIS FORCES HAVE SURRENDERED. THE REVOLUTION IS OVER... WE'VE WON, THANKS TO YOU DROIDS.
FORMER DICTATOR CRAW IS NOW OFFICIALLY IN EXILE.
AND SMILEY'S SAFE, THANKS TO ARTOO. YOU WERE RIGHT, THREEPIO. ARTOO DOESN'T NEED ANY EXTRA PROGRAMMING--

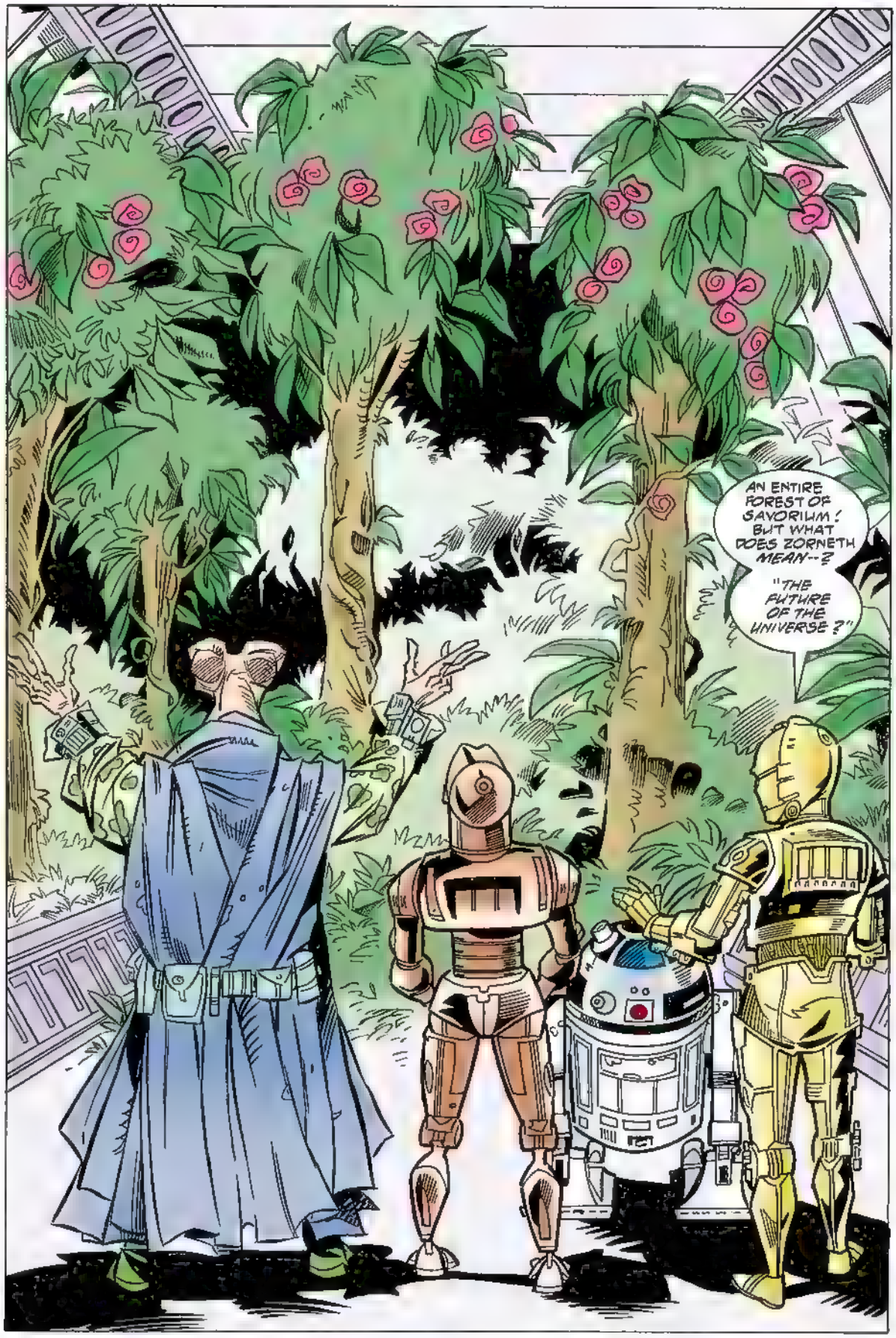

--TO MAKE HIM A HERO.

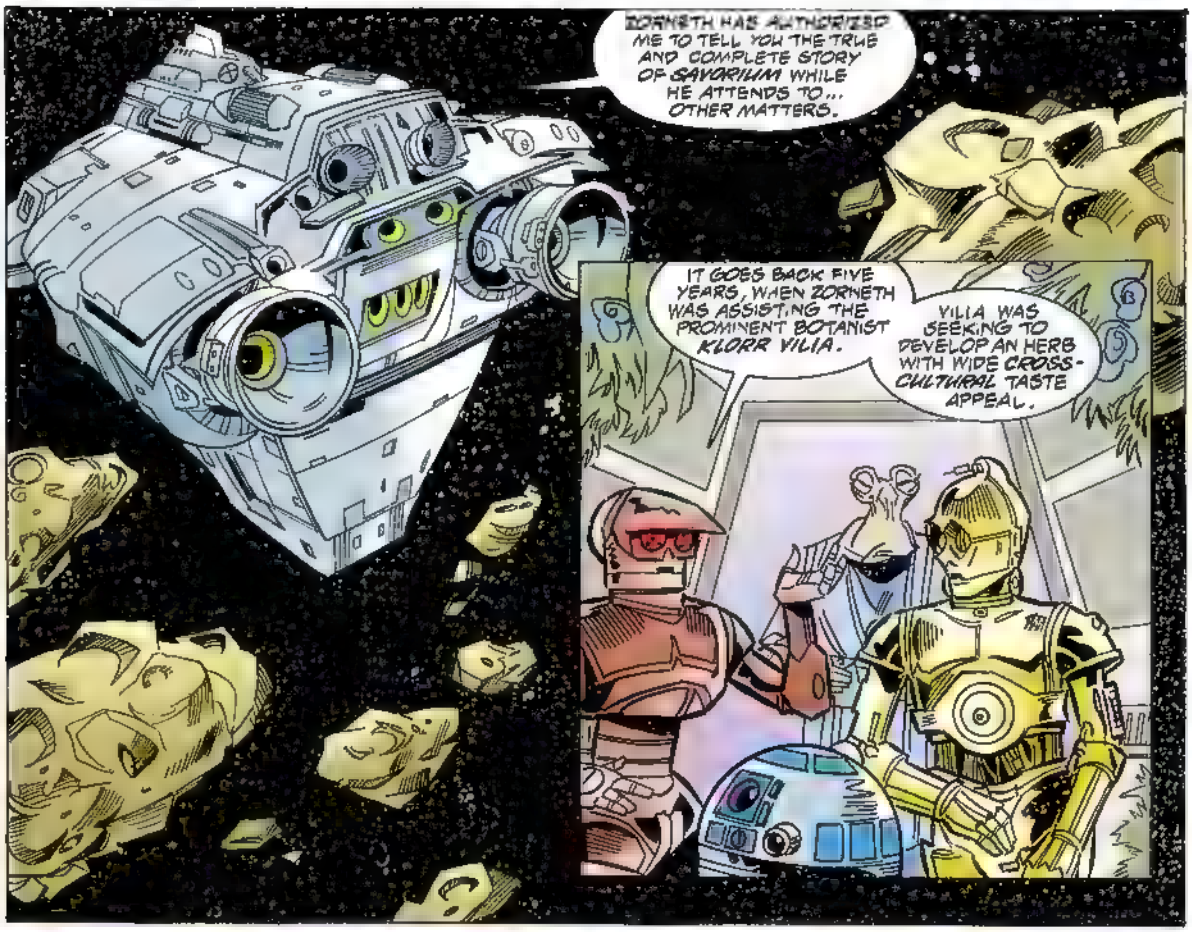

YOU'RE A GOOD BEING, ZORNETH. YOUR DEDICATION TO THE SMILER RESULTED IN THE LIBERATION OF MY PEOPLE.
GRAA B'NATH, DA NORGAGTH!
YEAH, WHATEVER YOU SAY.

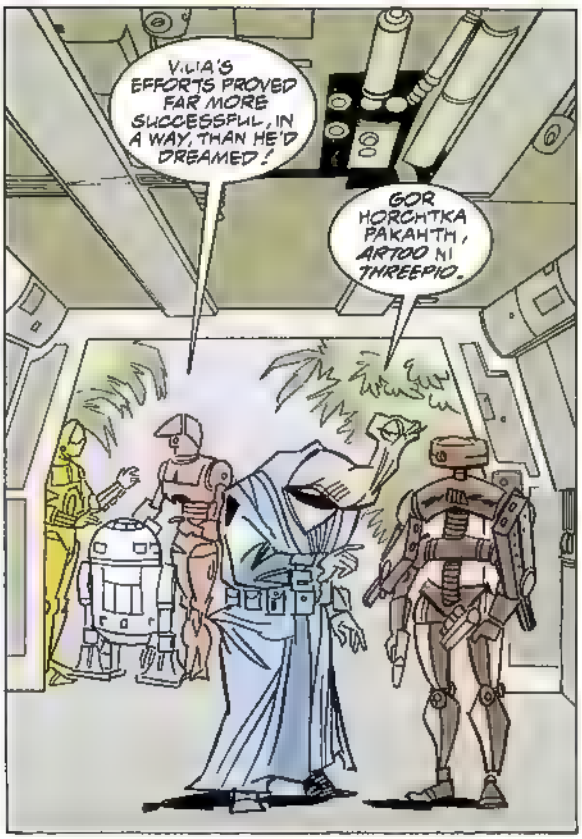

ALL I ASK IS FOR A DROID TO KICK NOW AND AGAIN. AN R2 UNIT WOULD DO NICELY.

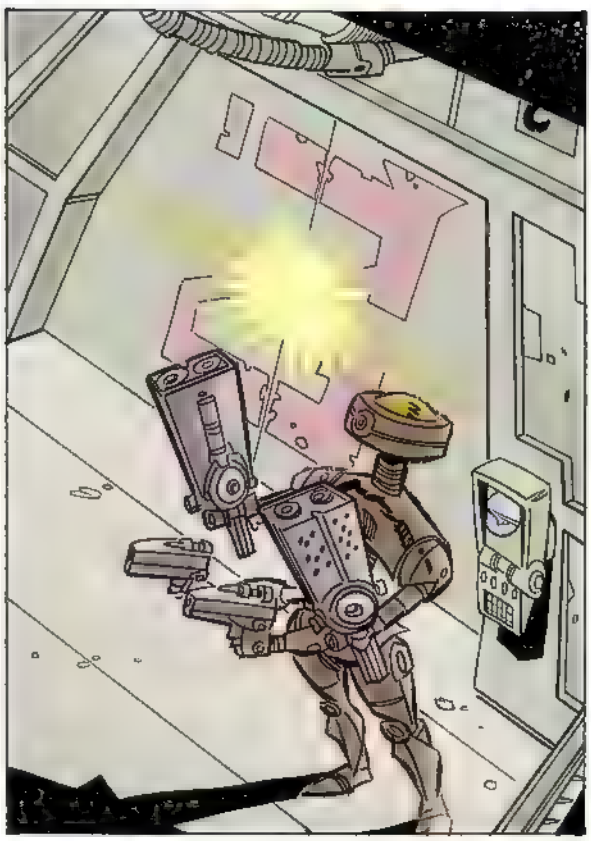



B'RAUG NA GAGNATH. KAA-BOGNA, BREGMAH!
WHY, THANK YOU, MASTER ZORNETH!
YOU SHOULD FEEL FLATTERED. YOU'RE THE ONLY BEINGS, ASIDE FROM MYSELF, THAT MASTER ZORNETH HAS TAKEN INTO HIS CONFIDENCE.
WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO SHOW YOU MUST BE HELD STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL!
OF COURSE!
OH, MY STARS! I NEVER IMAGINED!
GRA-BAGH NADDAK KRAGH!


AN ENTIRE FOREST OF SAVORIUM! BUT WHAT DOES ZORNETH MEAN--?
"THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSE?"


ZORNETH HAS AUTHORIZED ME TO TELL YOU THE TRUE AND COMPLETE STORY OF SAVORIUM WHILE HE ATTENDS TO... OTHER MATTERS.
IT GOES BACK FIVE YEARS, WHEN ZORNETH WAS ASSISTING THE PROMINENT BOTANIST KLORR VILIA.
VILIA WAS SEEKING TO DEVELOP AN HERB WITH WIDE CROSS-CULTURAL TASTE APPEAL.

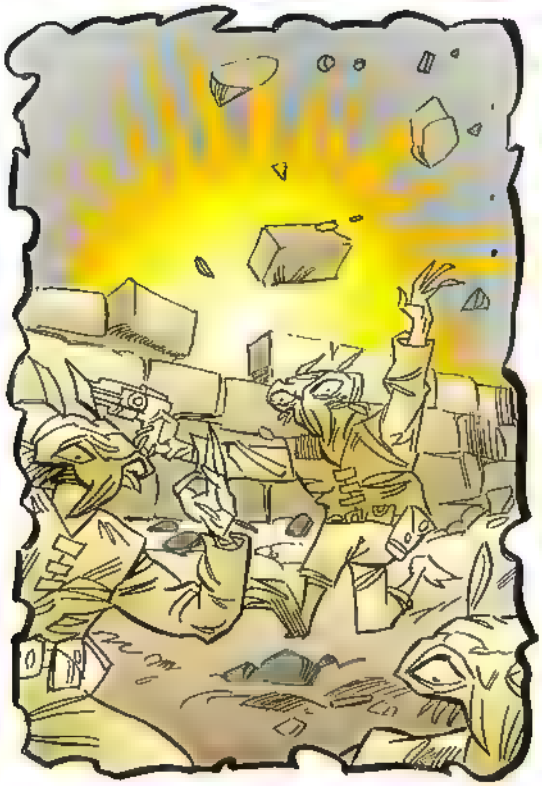

VILIA'S EFFORTS PROVED FAR MORE SUCCESSFUL, IN A WAY, THAN HE'D DREAMED!
GOR HORCHTKA PAKAH'TH, ARTOO NI THREEPIO.

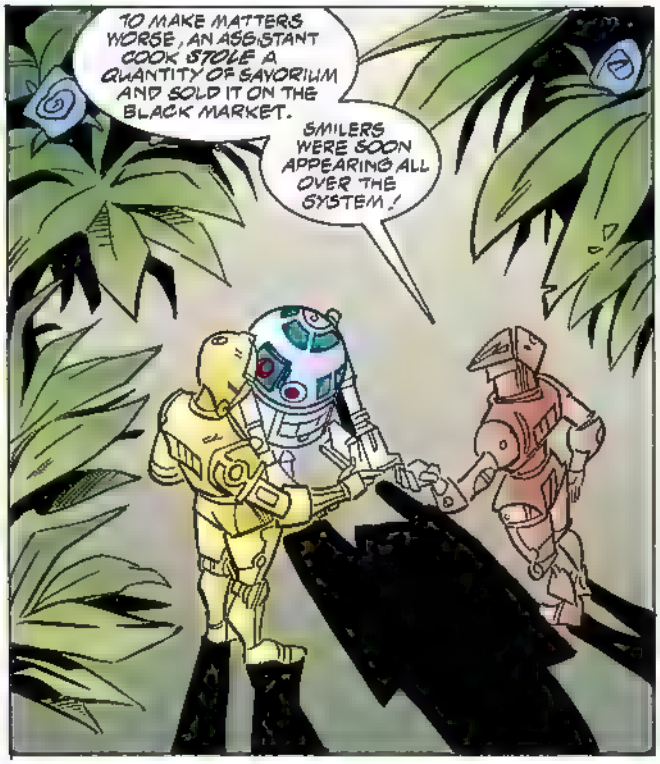


"HE MIXED A PROMISING HERB INTO A KETTLE OF MEAT SOUP. ZORNETH-- A STRICT VEGETARIAN, LIKE ALL ITHORIANS-- POLITELY DECLINED A TASTE.
"VILIA APOLOGIZED FOR OFFERING MEAT TO AN ITHORIAN. IT WAS HIS LAST INTELLIGIBLE SENTENCE.
"ZORNETH REALIZED THAT VILIA HAD STUMBLED UPON SOMETHING REMARKABLE."

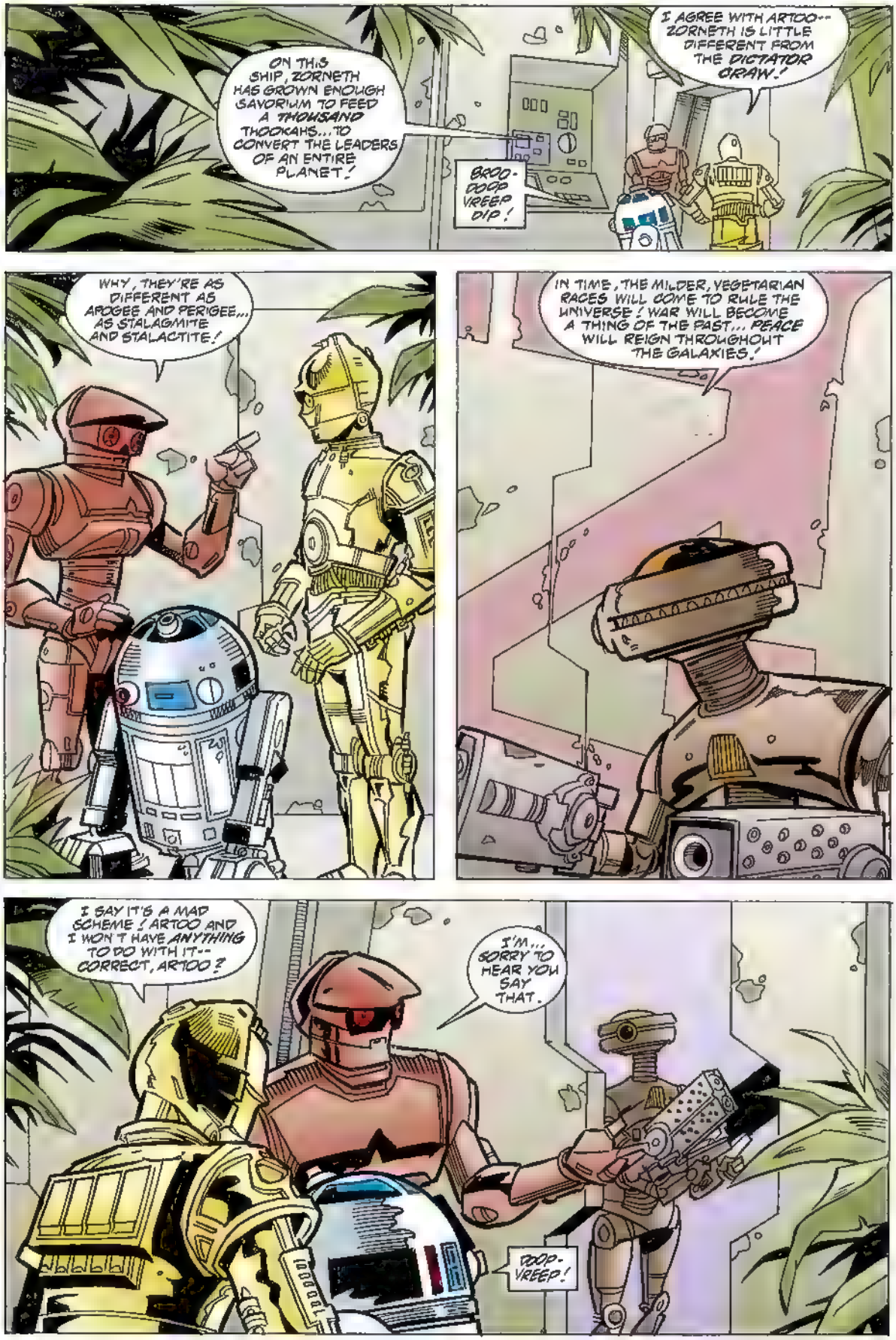
" ZORNETH SOUGHT OUT THE MOST VIOLENT, DANGEROUS SUBJECTS HE COULD FIND, AND BEGAN TO EXPERIMENT.
" I WAS ENLISTED AS A TRANSLATOR, CONVEYING ZORNETH'S OFFER OF A FREE MEAL TO VARIOUS UNSAVORY INDIVIDUALS.
" RESULTS, AT FIRST, WERE ENCOURAGING."

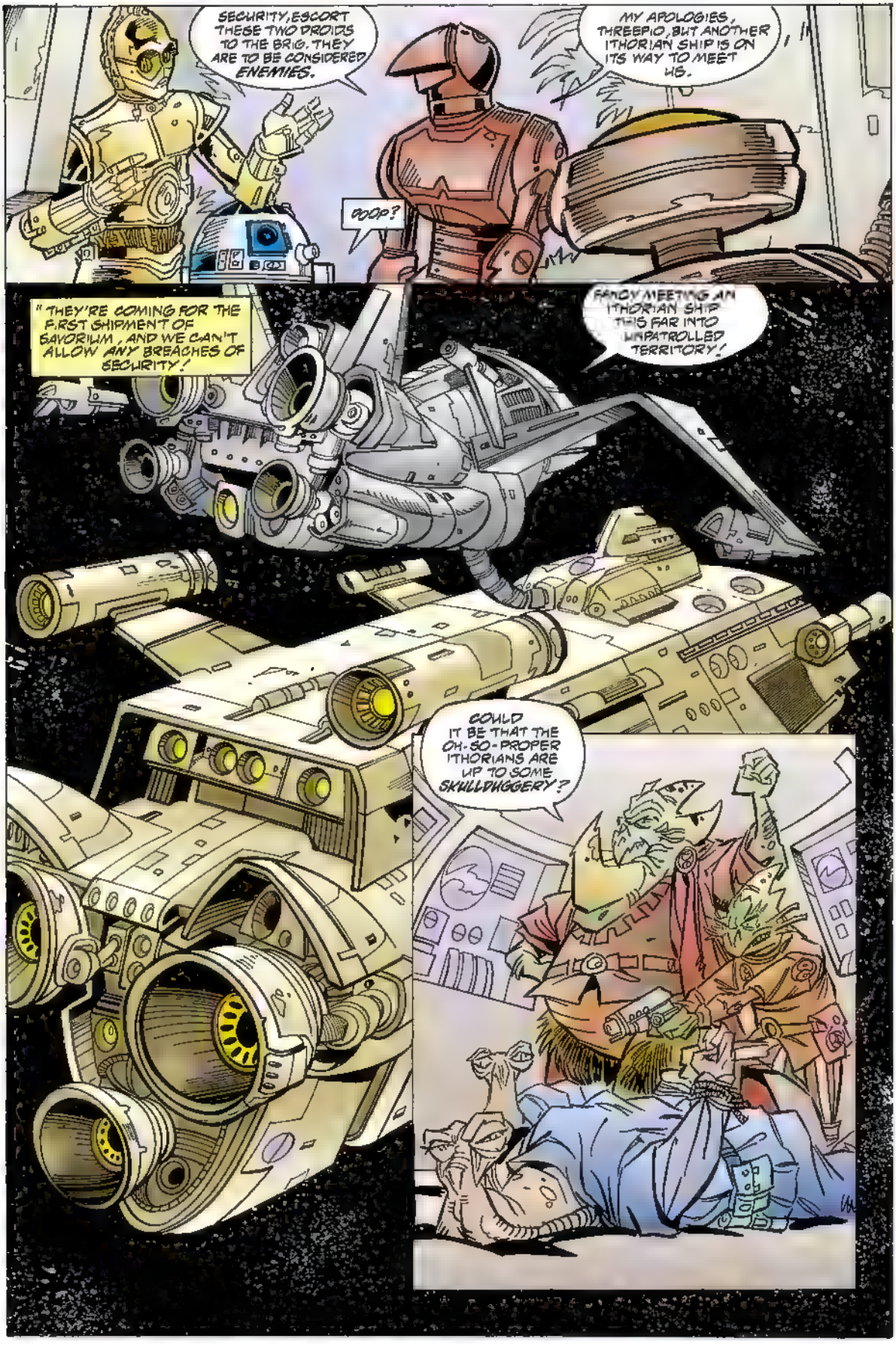
ZORNETH BEGAN TO ENVISION A UNIVERSE AT PEACE, BUT SAVORIUM HAD ITS DOWN SIDE --
"SMILERS WERE TOO ACCOMODATING, HAPPY TO DO THE MOST DANGEROUS WORK IMAGINABLE--AND THEY WERE CHEAPER THAN DROIDS."

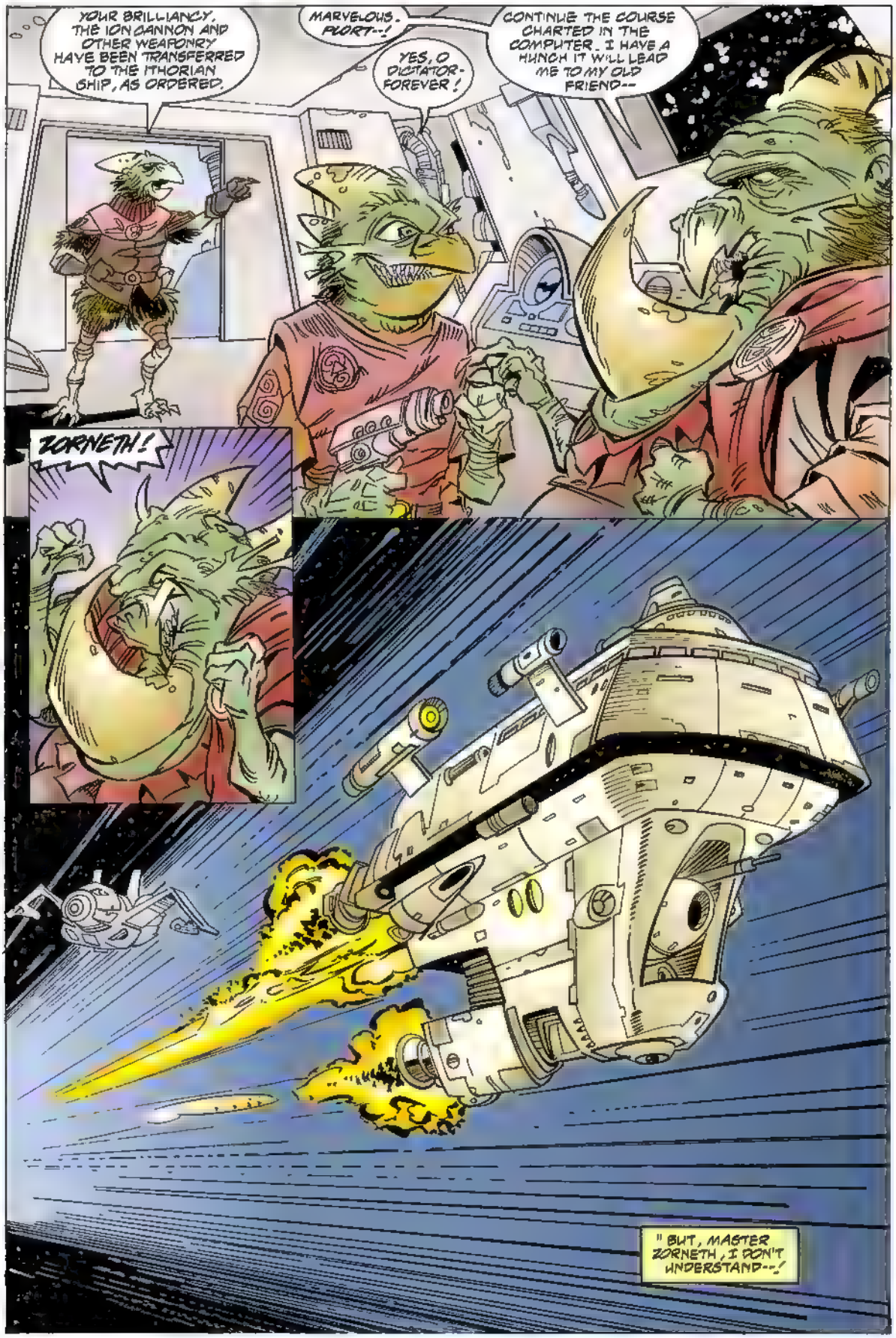


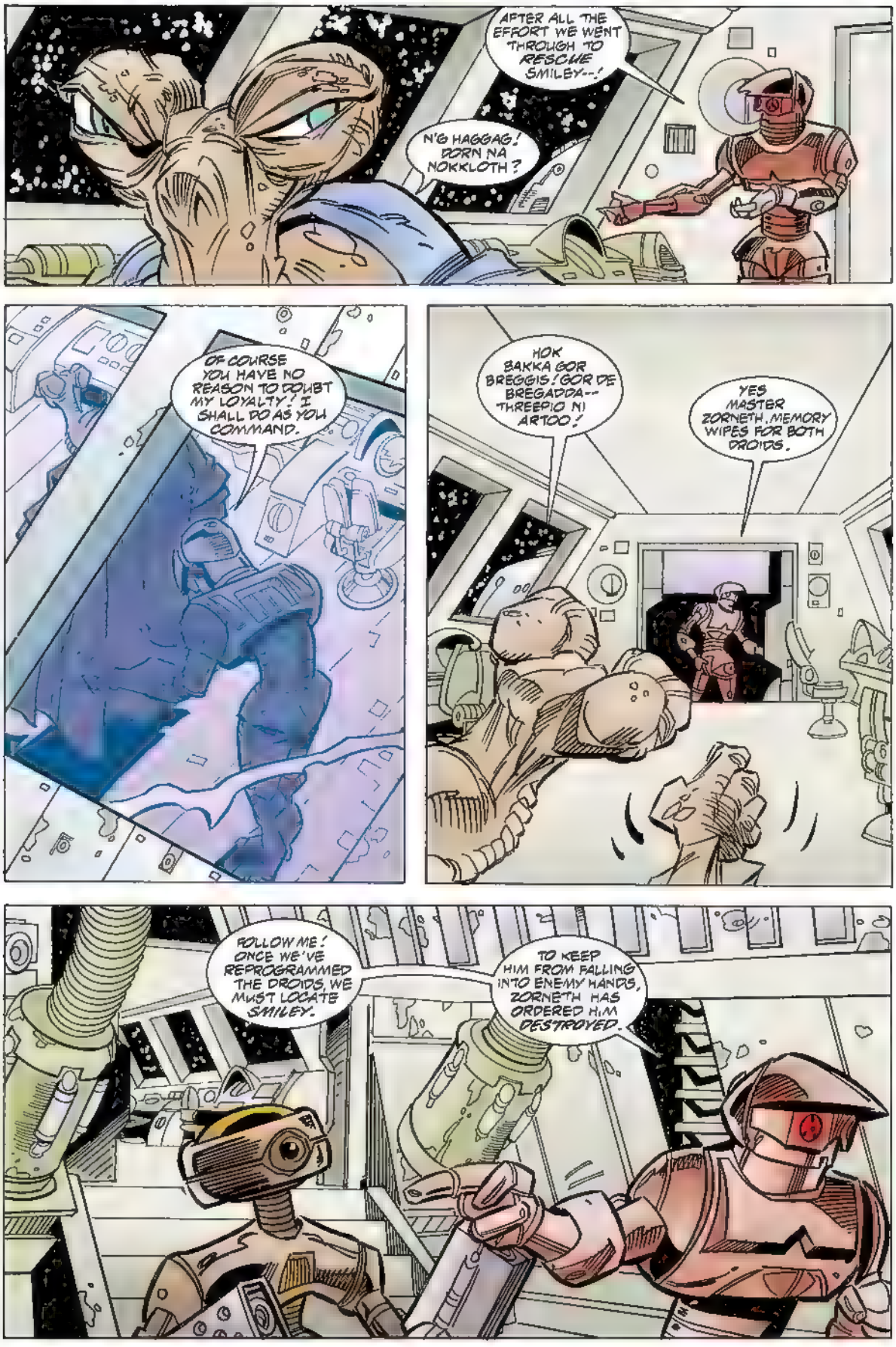

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, AN ASSISTANT COOK STOLE A QUANTITY OF SAVORIUM AND SOLD IT ON THE BLACK MARKET.
SMILERS WERE SOON APPEARING ALL OVER THE SYSTEM!

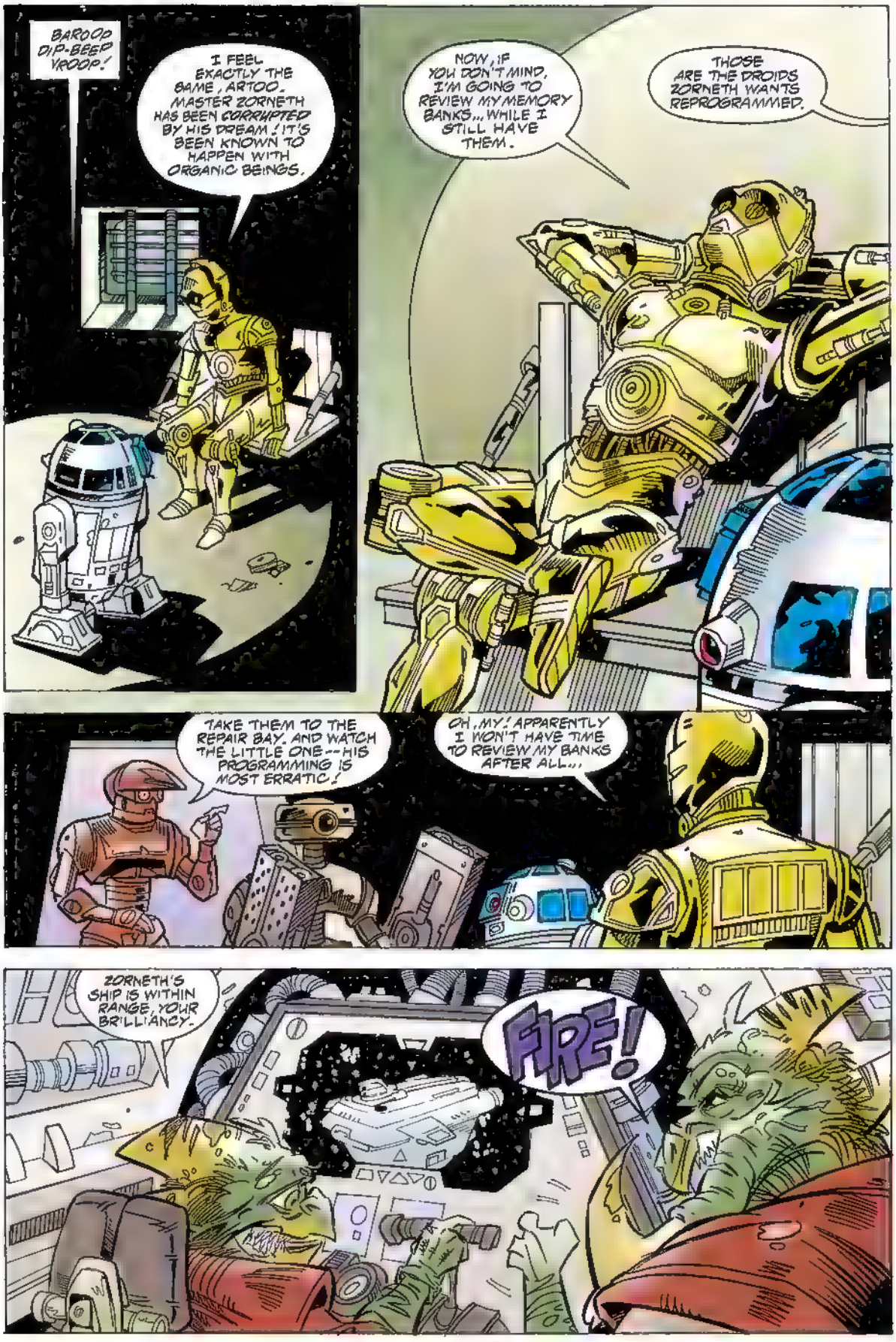
" ZORNETH DEVELOPED THE CARETAKER VIRUS TO PROTECT SMILERS, BUT HE KNEW--
"SAVORIUM HAD THE POWER TO CHANGE THE VERY TEMPER OF THE GALAXY, IF ONLY IT COULD BE ADMINISTERED TO THOSE WHO NEEDED IT MOST!
"HE LEARNED THAT, BY FEEDING SAVORIUM TO THOOKAHS, THEIR MEAT TOOK ON THE RAPTURE-PRODUCING FLAVOR OF THE HERB.
"THE FIRST SAVORIUM-FED THOOKAHS HAVE ALREADY PROVEN EFFECTIVE, AS A KROZURBIAN WAR COUNCIL, FED ON THOOKAH-STEAKS, HAS TURNED AWAY FROM TWO CENTURIES OF WAR AND EMBRACED PEACE."

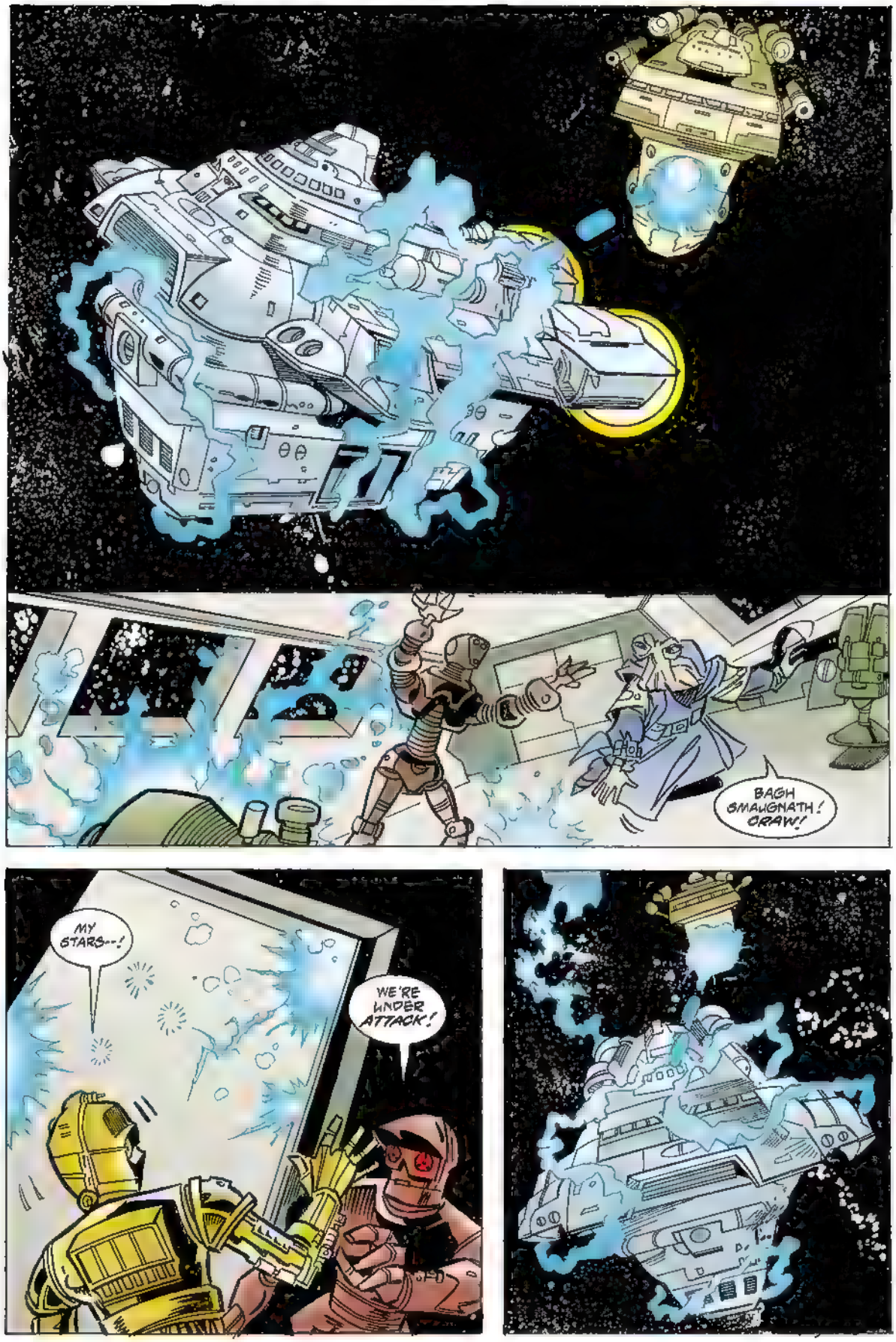

ON THIS SHIP, ZORNETH HAS GROWN ENOUGH SAVORIUM TO FEED A THOUSAND THOOKAHS... TO CONVERT THE LEADERS OF AN ENTIRE PLANET!
BROO-DOOP VREEP DIP!
I AGREE WITH ARTOO-- ZORNETH IS LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE DICTATOR ORAW!
WHY, THEY'RE AS DIFFERENT AS APOGEE AND PERIGEE... AS STALAGMITE AND STALACTITE!
IN TIME, THE MILDER, VEGETARIAN RACES WILL COME TO RULE THE UNIVERSE! WAR WILL BECOME A THING OF THE PAST... PEACE WILL REIGN THROUGHOUT THE GALAXIES!
I SAY IT'S A MAD SCHEME! ARTOO AND I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT-- CORRECT, ARTOO?
I'M... SORRY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
DOOP-VREEP!

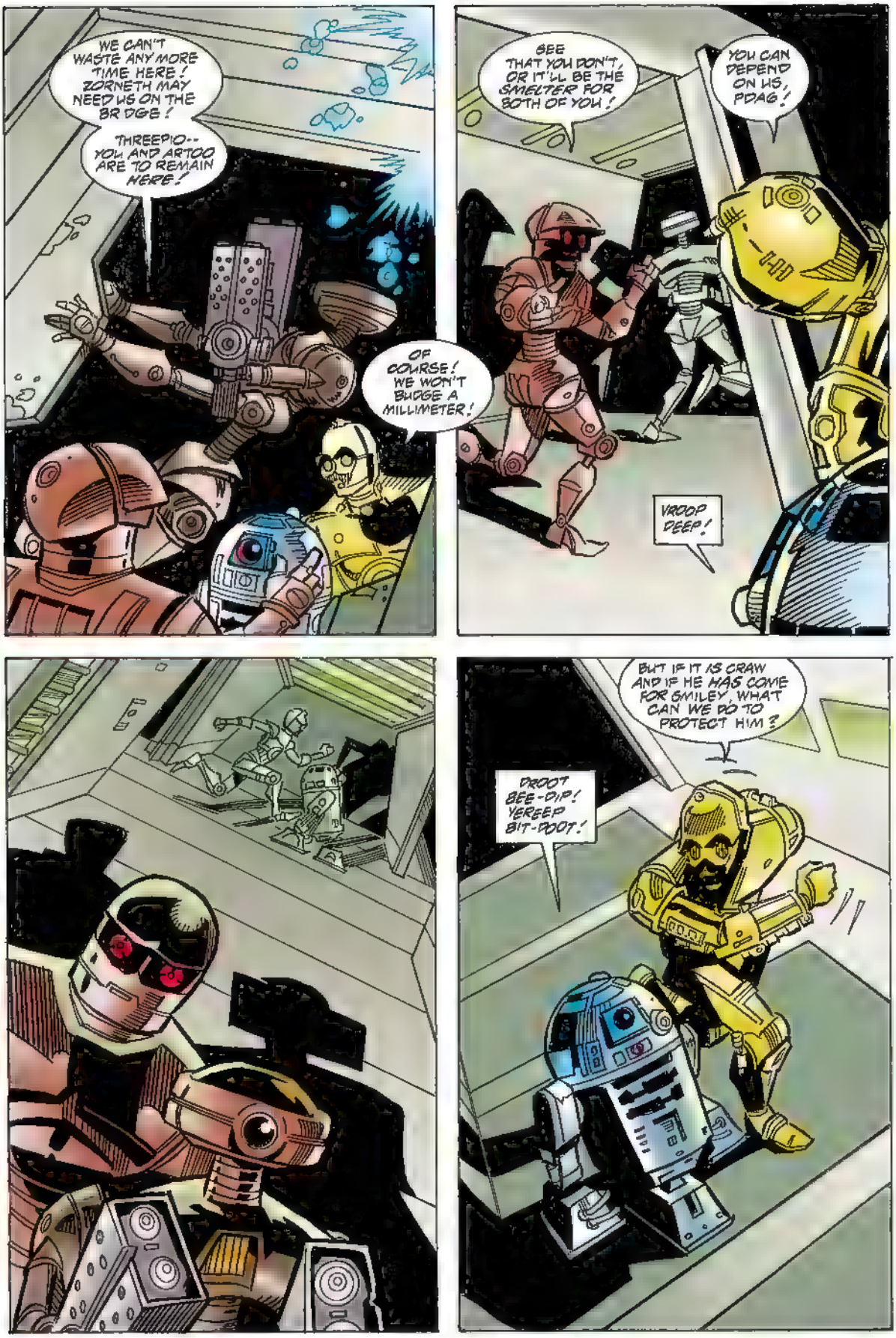

SECURITY, ESCORT THESE TWO DROIDS TO THE BRIG. THEY ARE TO BE CONSIDERED ENEMIES.
MY APOLOGIES, THREEPIO, BUT ANOTHER ITHORIAN SHIP IS ON ITS WAY TO MEET US.
OOOP?
"THEY'RE COMING FOR THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF SAVORIUM, AND WE CAN'T ALLOW ANY BREACHES OF SECURITY!
RANDY MEETING AN ITHORIAN SHIP THIS FAR INTO UNPATROLLED TERRITORY!
COULD IT BE THAT THE OH-SO-PROPER ITHORIANS ARE UP TO SOME SKULLDUGGERY?

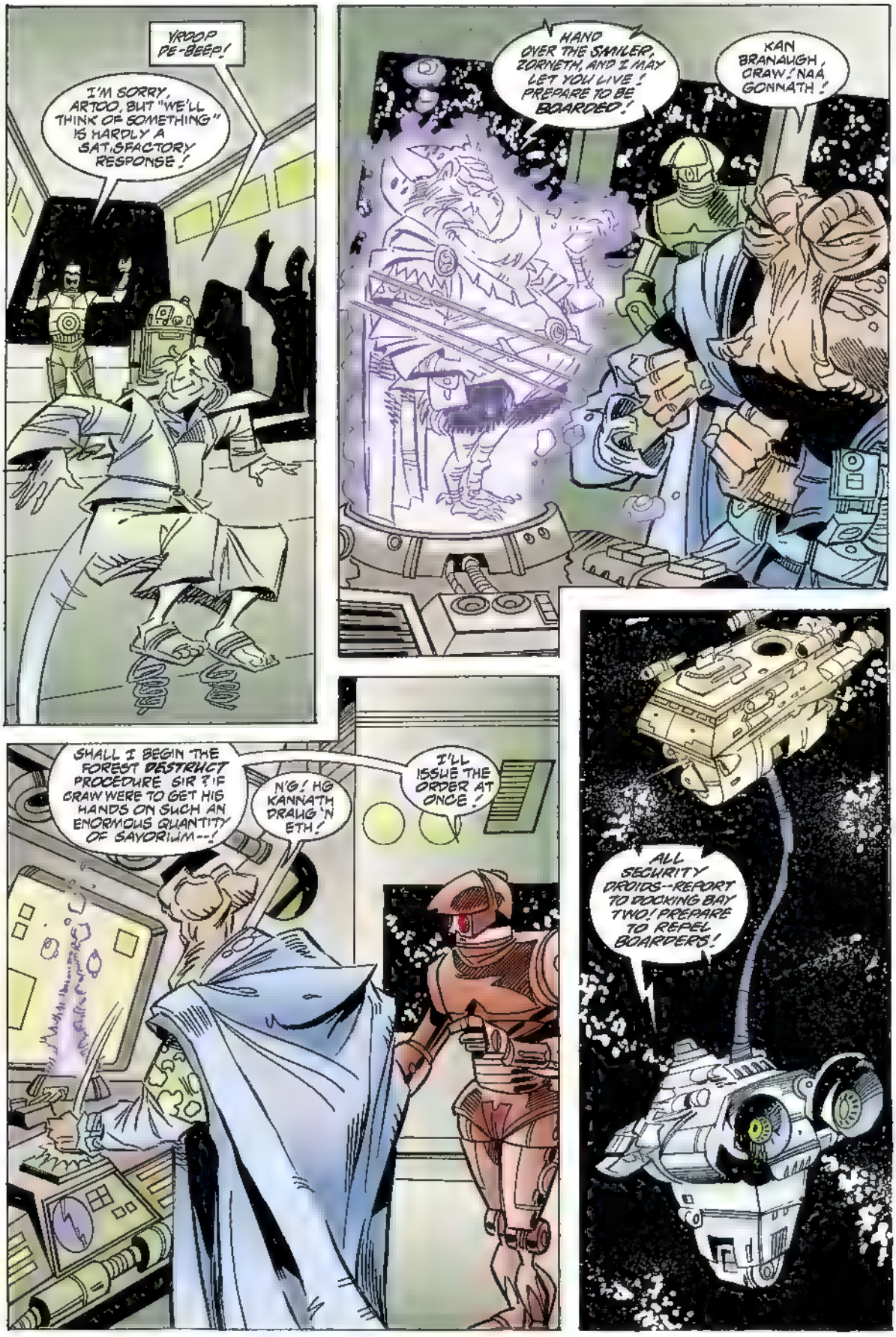

YOUR BRILLIANCY, THE ION CANNON AND OTHER WEAPONRY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE ITHORIAN SHIP, AS ORDERED.
MARVELOUS. PLORT--!
YES, O DICTATOR-FOREVER!
CONTINUE THE COURSE CHARTED IN THE COMPUTER. I HAVE A HUNCH IT WILL LEAD ME TO MY OLD FRIEND--
ZORNETH!
"BUT, MASTER ZORNETH, I DON'T UNDERSTAND--!


AFTER ALL THE EFFORT WE WENT THROUGH TO RESCUE SMILEY--!
N'G HAGGAG! DORN NA NOKKLOTH?
OF COURSE YOU HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT MY LOYALTY! I SHALL DO AS YOU COMMAND.
HOK BAKKA GOR BREGGIS! GOR DE BREGADDA-- THREEPIO NI ARTOO!
YES MASTER ZORNETH. MEMORY WIPES FOR BOTH DROIDS.
FOLLOW ME! ONCE WE'VE REPROGRAMMED THE DROIDS, WE MUST LOCATE SMILEY.
TO KEEP HIM FROM FALLING INTO ENEMY HANDS, ZORNETH HAS ORDERED HIM DESTROYED.

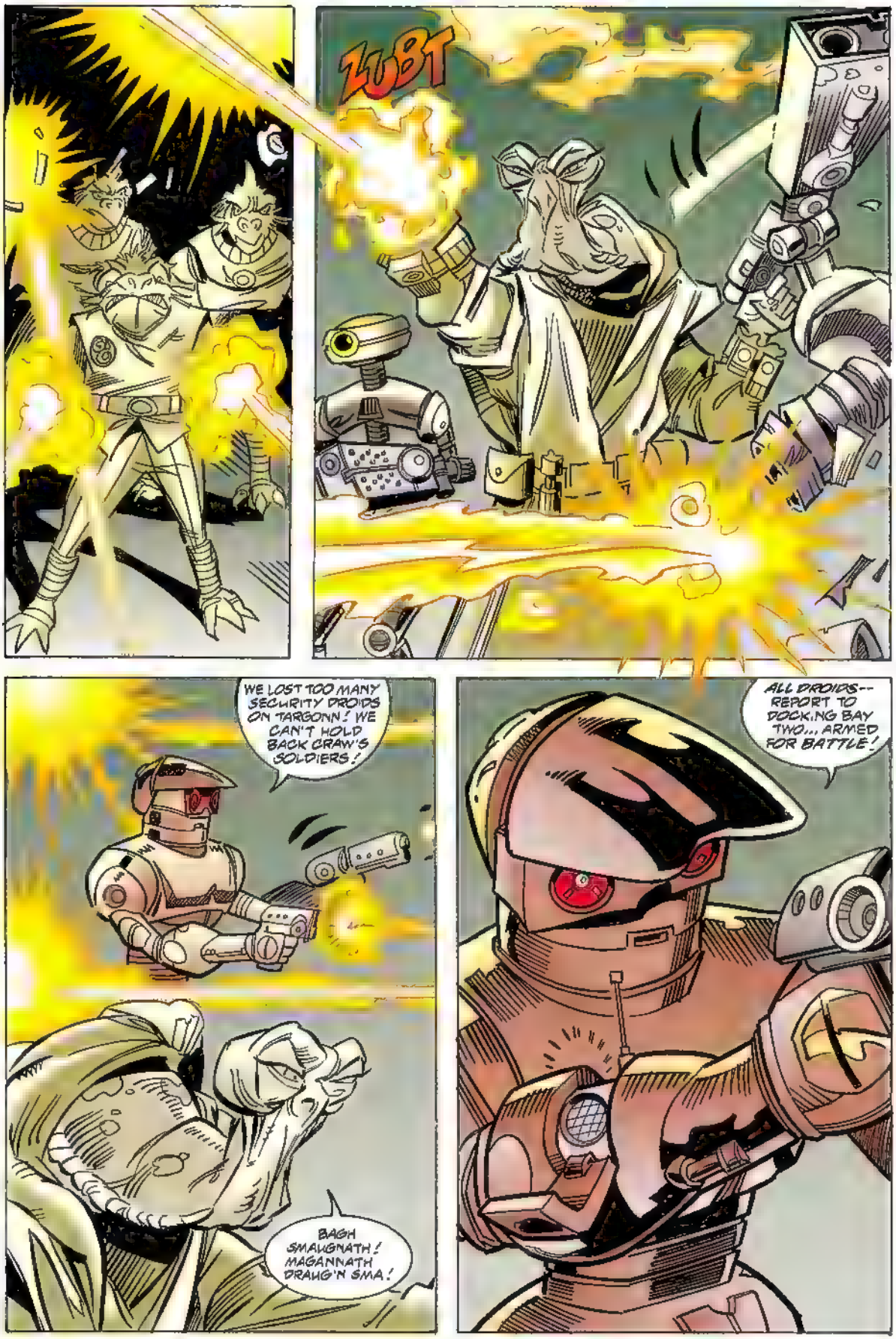

BAROOP DIP-BEEP VROOP!
I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME, ARTOO. MASTER ZORNETH HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY HIS DREAM! IT'S BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN WITH ORGANIC BEINGS.
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'M GOING TO REVIEW MY MEMORY BANKS... WHILE I STILL HAVE THEM.
THOSE ARE THE DROIDS ZORNETH WANTS REPROGRAMMED.
TAKE THEM TO THE REPAIR BAY. AND WATCH THE LITTLE ONE--HIS PROGRAMMING IS MOST ERRATIC!
OH, MY! APPARENTLY I WON'T HAVE TIME TO REVIEW MY BANKS AFTER ALL...
ZORNETH'S SHIP IS WITHIN RANGE, YOUR BRILLIANCY.
FIRE!

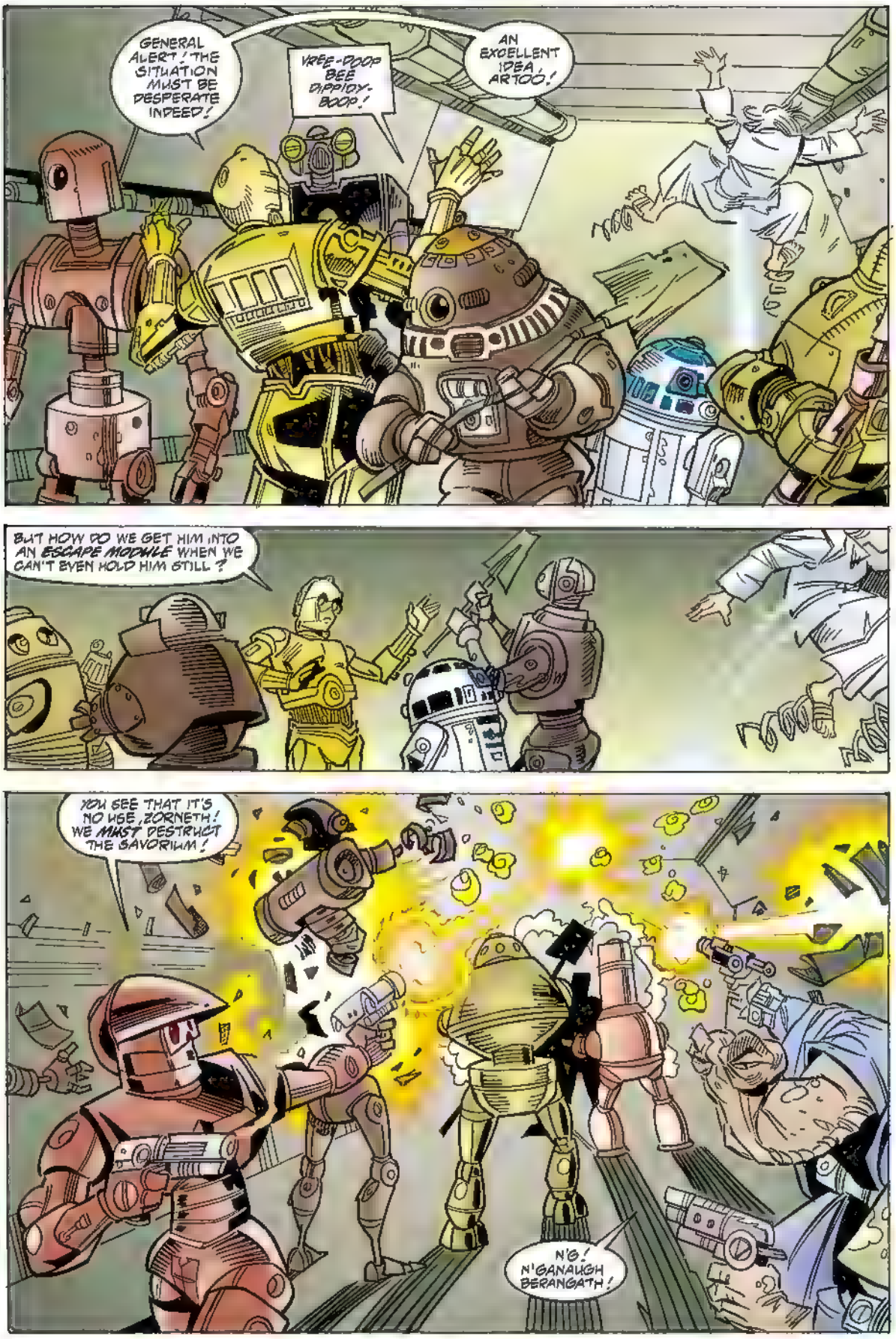

BAGH SMAUGNATH! CRAW!
MY STARS--!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

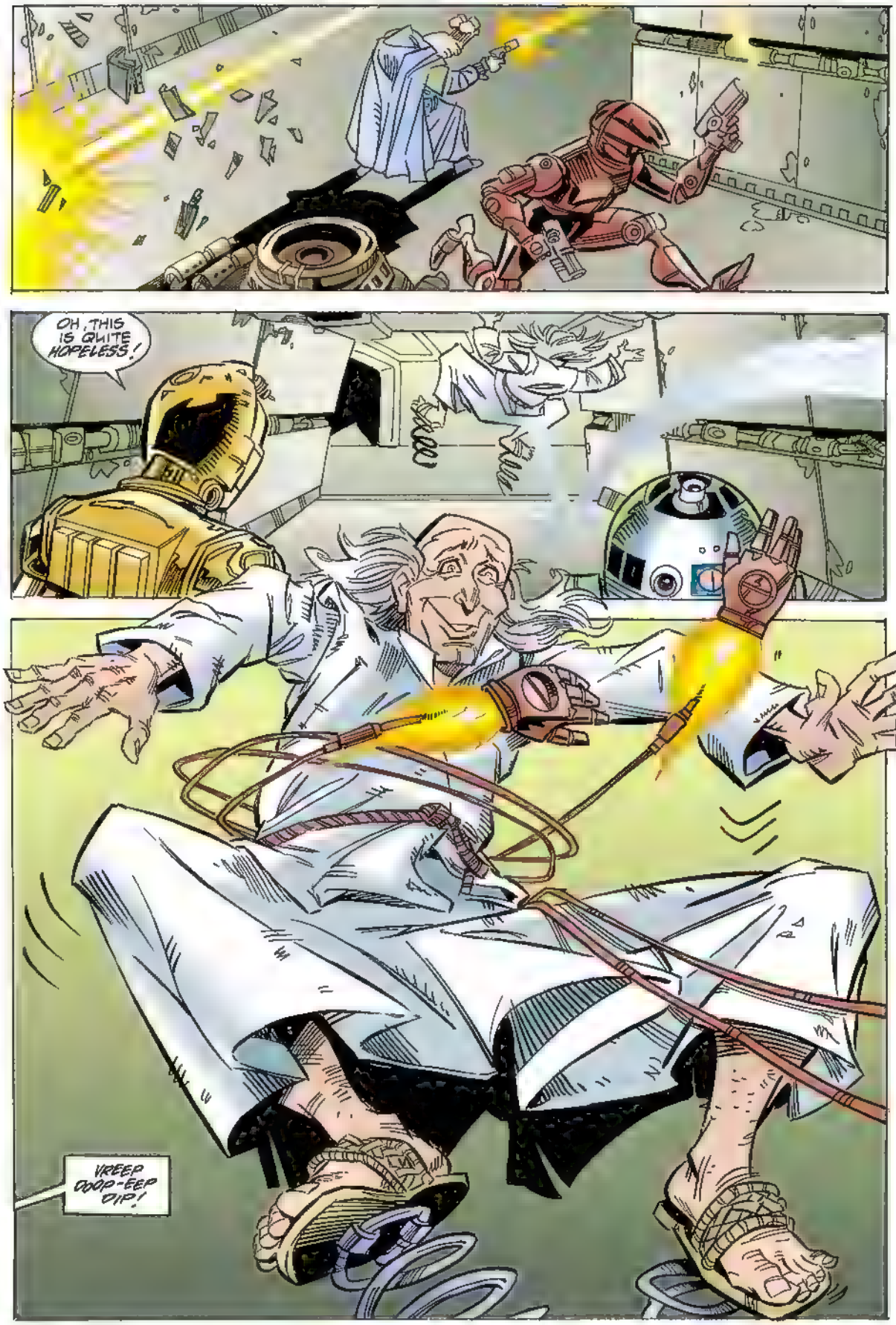

WE CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME HERE! ZORNETH MAY NEED US ON THE BRIDGE!
THREEPIO-- YOU AND ARTOO ARE TO REMAIN HERE!
OF COURSE! WE WON'T BUDGE A MILLIMETER!
SEE THAT YOU DON'T, OR IT'LL BE THE SMELTER FOR BOTH OF YOU!
YOU CAN DEPEND ON US, PDAG!
VROOP DEEP!
BUT IF IT IS CRAW AND IF HE HAS COME FOR SMILEY, WHAT CAN WE DO TO PROTECT HIM?
DROOT BEE-DIP! YEREEP BIT-POOT!


YROOP DE-BEEP!
I'M SORRY, ARTOO, BUT "WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING" IS HARDLY A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE!
HAND OVER THE SMILER, ZORNETH, AND I MAY LET YOU LIVE! PREPARE TO BE BOARDED!
KAN BRANAUGH, ORAW! NAA GONNATH!
SHALL I BEGIN THE FOREST DESTRUCT PROCEDURE SIR? IF ORAW WERE TO GET HIS HANDS ON SUCH AN ENORMOUS QUANTITY OF SAYORIUM--!
N'G! HG KANNATH DRAUG 'N ETH!
I'LL ISSUE THE ORDER AT ONCE!
ALL SECURITY DROIDS--REPORT TO DOCKING BAY TWO! PREPARE TO REPEL BOARDERS!

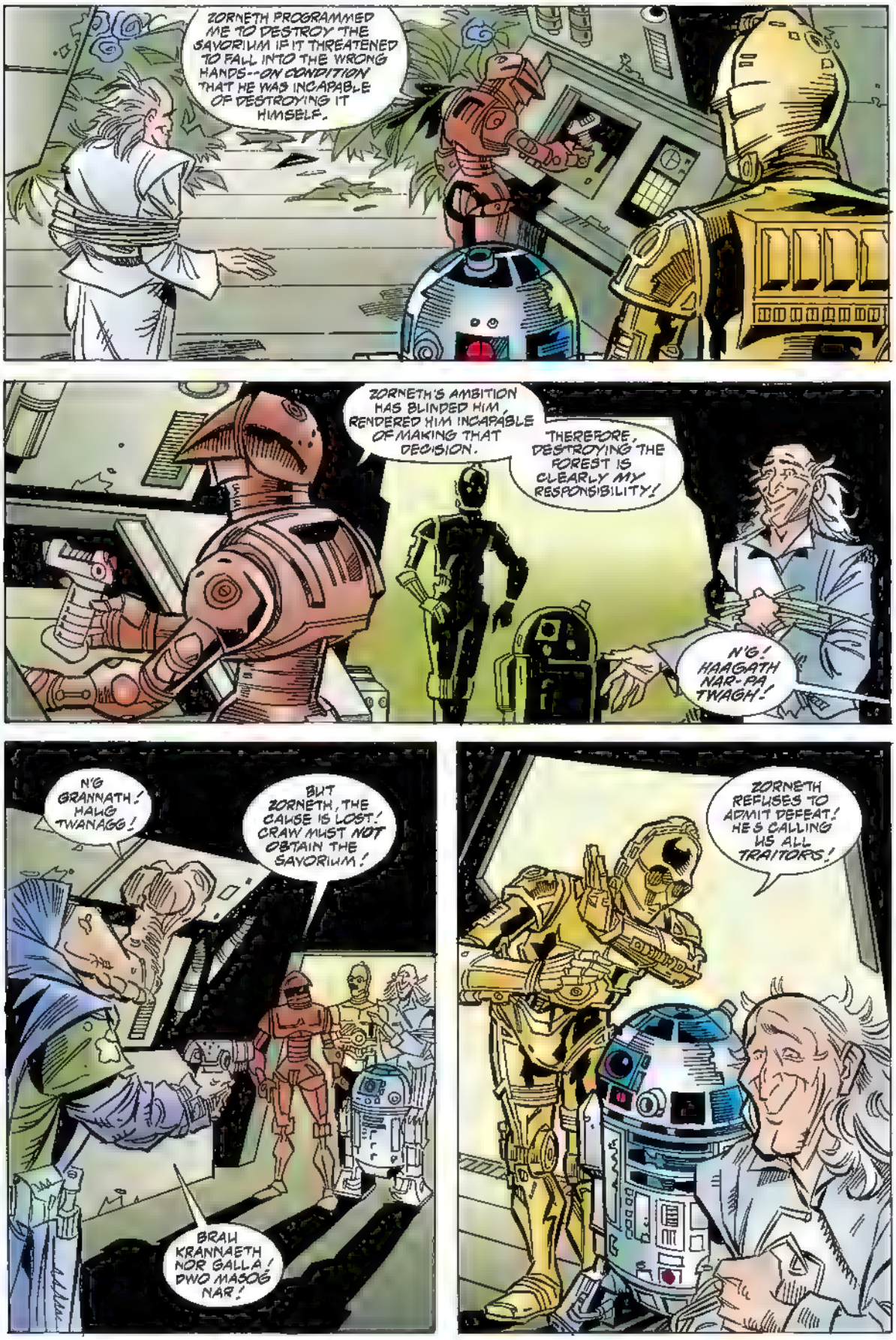
BOOF
THOOM
WOOSH
WOOSH


ZUBT
WE LOST TOO MANY SECURITY DROIDS ON TARGONN! WE CAN'T HOLD BACK CRAW'S SOLDIERS!
BAGH SMAUGNATH! MAGANNATH DRAUG'N SMA!
ALL DROIDS-- REPORT TO DOCKING BAY TWO... ARMED FOR BATTLE!

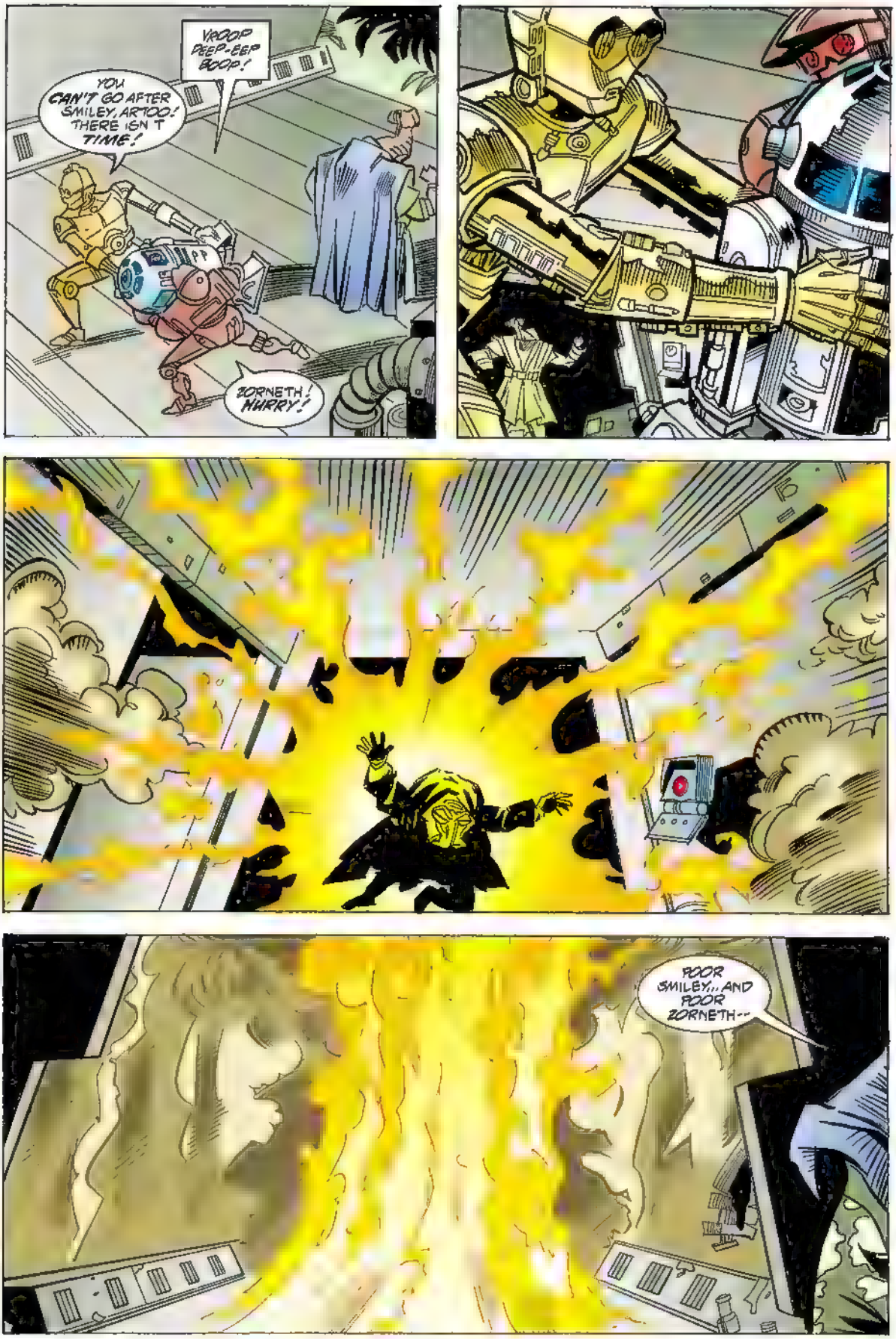

GENERAL ALERT! THE SITUATION MUST BE DESPERATE INDEED!
VREE-DOOP BEE DIPPIDY-BOOP!
AN EXCELLENT IDEA, ARTOO!
BUT HOW DO WE GET HIM INTO AN ESCAPE MODULE WHEN WE CAN'T EVEN HOLD HIM STILL?
YOU SEE THAT IT'S NO USE, ZORNETH! WE MUST DESTRUCT THE SAVORIUM!
N'G! N'GANAUGH BERANGATH!

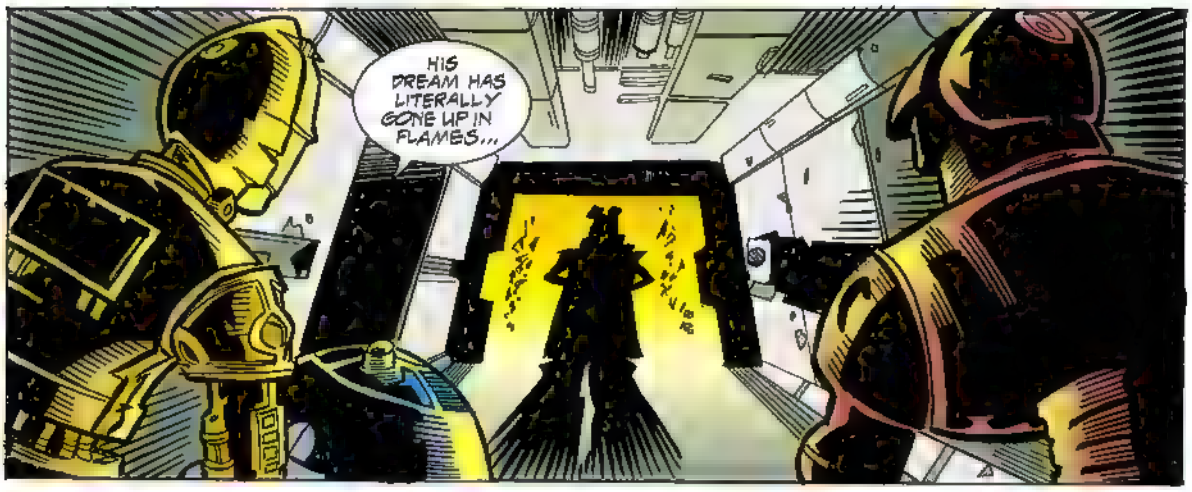

OH, THIS IS QUITE HOPELESS!
VREEP OOOP-EEP OIP!

THREEPIO, ARTOO--HURRY!
CRAW IS TAKING OVER THE SHIP! YOU TWO AND SMILEY MUST ESCAPE!
I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO IN BAY NINE!
DREEP BIP-BIP BOOP!
HELP PRAG? BUT MINUTES AGO HE WAS GOING TO WIPE OUR MEMORIES!
YROOP BEEPIDY-DIP BOOP!
"GREATER CAUSE" INDEED! I SWEAR, ARTOO! SOMETIMES YOU SORELY TRY MY CIRCUITS!
YES, I SUPPOSE I DO OWE YOU AN EXPLANATION.
YRIP-DIP BEEP BOOPITY-BOOP!


ZORNETH PROGRAMMED ME TO DESTROY THE SAVORIUM IF IT THREATENED TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS--ON CONDITION THAT HE WAS INCAPABLE OF DESTROYING IT HIMSELF.
ZORNETH'S AMBITION HAS BLINDED HIM, RENDERED HIM INCAPABLE OF MAKING THAT DECISION.
THEREFORE, DESTROYING THE FOREST IS CLEARLY MY RESPONSIBILITY!
N'G! HAAGATH NAR-PA TWAGH!
N'G GRANNATH! HALG TWANAGG!
BUT ZORNETH, THE CAUSE IS LOST! CRAW MUST NOT OBTAIN THE SAVORIUM!
BRAW KRANNAETH NOR GALLA! DWO MASOG NAR!
ZORNETH REFUSES TO ADMIT DEFEAT! HE'S CALLING US ALL TRAITORS!

ZUBT
DESTRUCTION SEQUENCE BEGUN. EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY. THIS SEQUENCE CANNOT BE OVERRIDDEN. EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.
BAGH SMAUGNATH! VILIA NAA GONNATH!

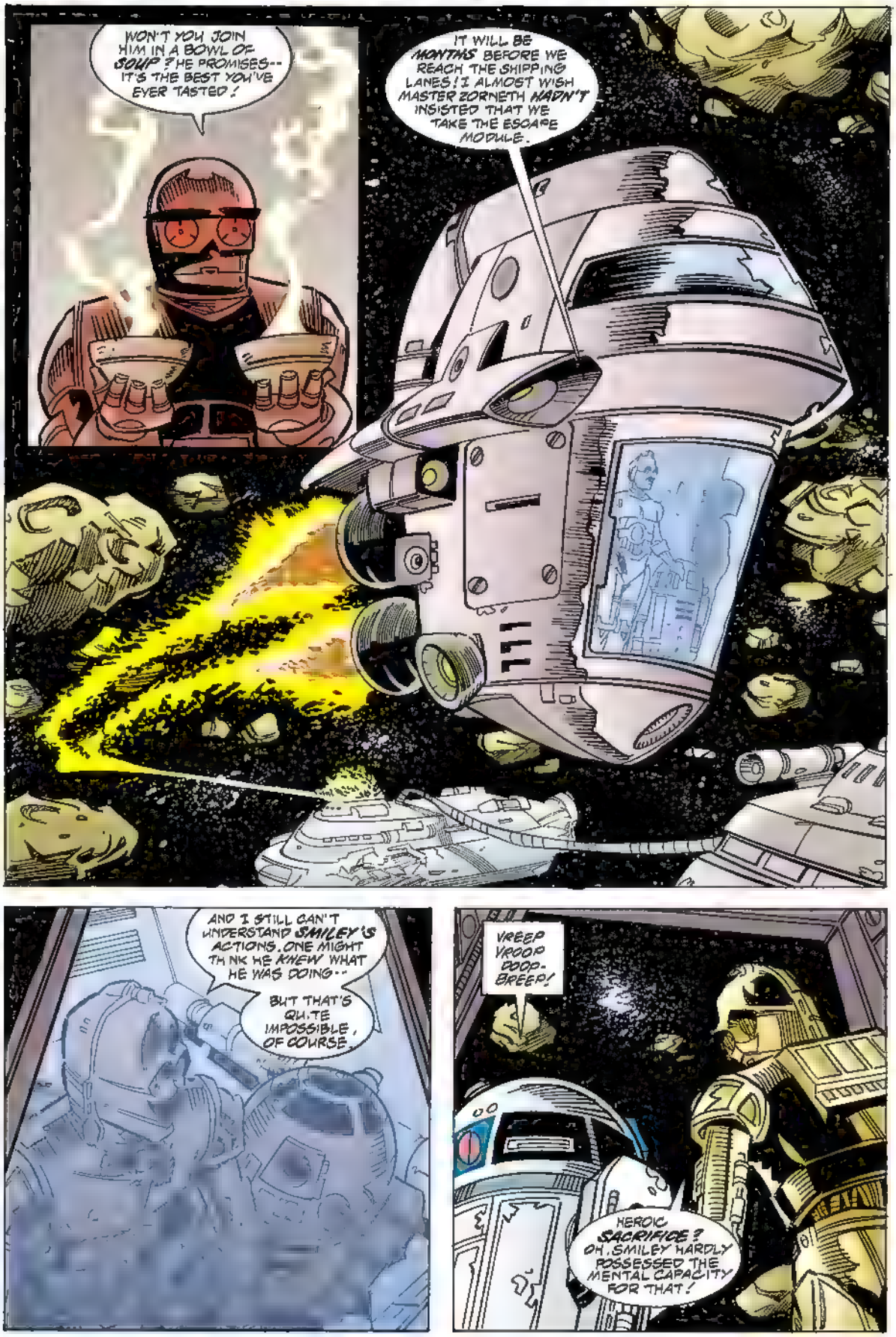

VROOP DEEP-EEP BOOP!
YOU CAN'T GO AFTER SMILEY, ARTOO! THERE ISN'T TIME!
ZORNETH! HURRY!
POOR SMILEY... AND POOR ZORNETH--

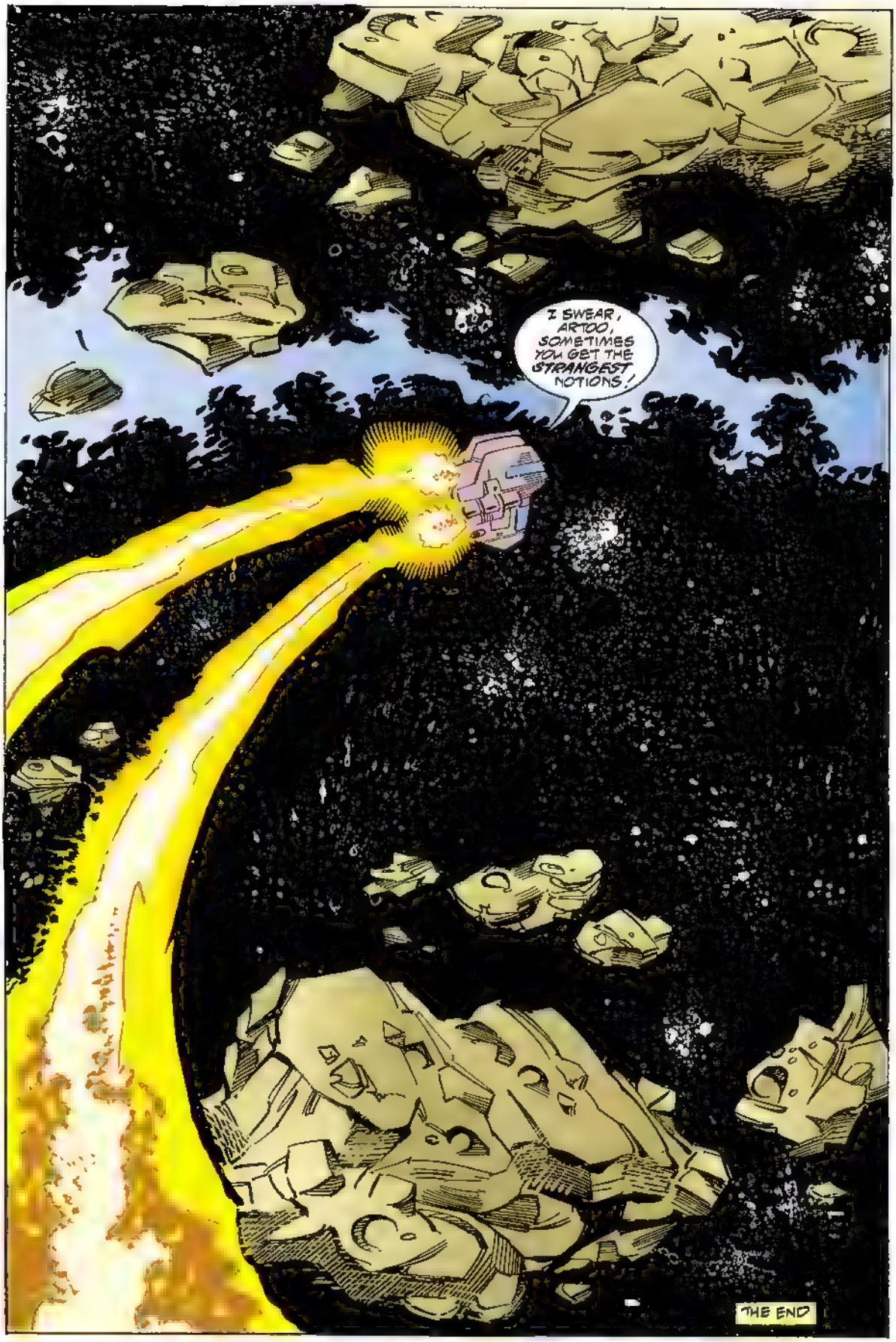

HIS DREAM HAS LITERALLY GONE UP IN FLAMES...

WHERE'S EVERYONE GONE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
THERE'S BEEN AN EXPLOSION IN BAY NINE, AND AN ESCAPE MODULE'S JUST BEEN LAUNCHED-- NO LIFE FORMS ABOARD.

BLASTED ITHORIANS! WHY ISN'T ZORNETH HERE GROVELING FOR MERCY LIKE A REASONABLE BEING?
FIND THE SMILER! AND SEARCH THE SHIP FOR SAVORIUM!
ALL EXISTING SAVORIUM HAS BEEN DESTROYED, CRAW, ALONG WITH ITS CREATOR.

MASTER ZORNETH'S DREAM IS ENDED, AS IS YOURS. THERE IS BUT ONE WAY FOR EITHER OF YOU TO ACHIEVE CONTENTMENT NOW.
ZORNETH EXTENDS AN INVITATION--


WON'T YOU JOIN HIM IN A BOWL OF SOUP? HE PROMISES-- IT'S THE BEST YOU'VE EVER TASTED!
IT WILL BE MONTHS BEFORE WE REACH THE SHIPPING LANES! I ALMOST WISH MASTER ZORNETH HADN'T INSISTED THAT WE TAKE THE ESCAPE MODULE.
AND I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND SMILEY'S ACTIONS. ONE MIGHT THINK HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING--
BUT THAT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE, OF COURSE.
VREEP VROOR DOOP-BREEP!
HEROIC SACRIFICE? OH, SMILEY HARDLY POSSESSED THE MENTAL CAPACITY FOR THAT!


I SWEAR, ARTOO, SOMETIMES YOU GET THE STRANGEST NOTIONS!
THE END

Star Wars: The Protocol Offensive | Illustration by Igor Kordey

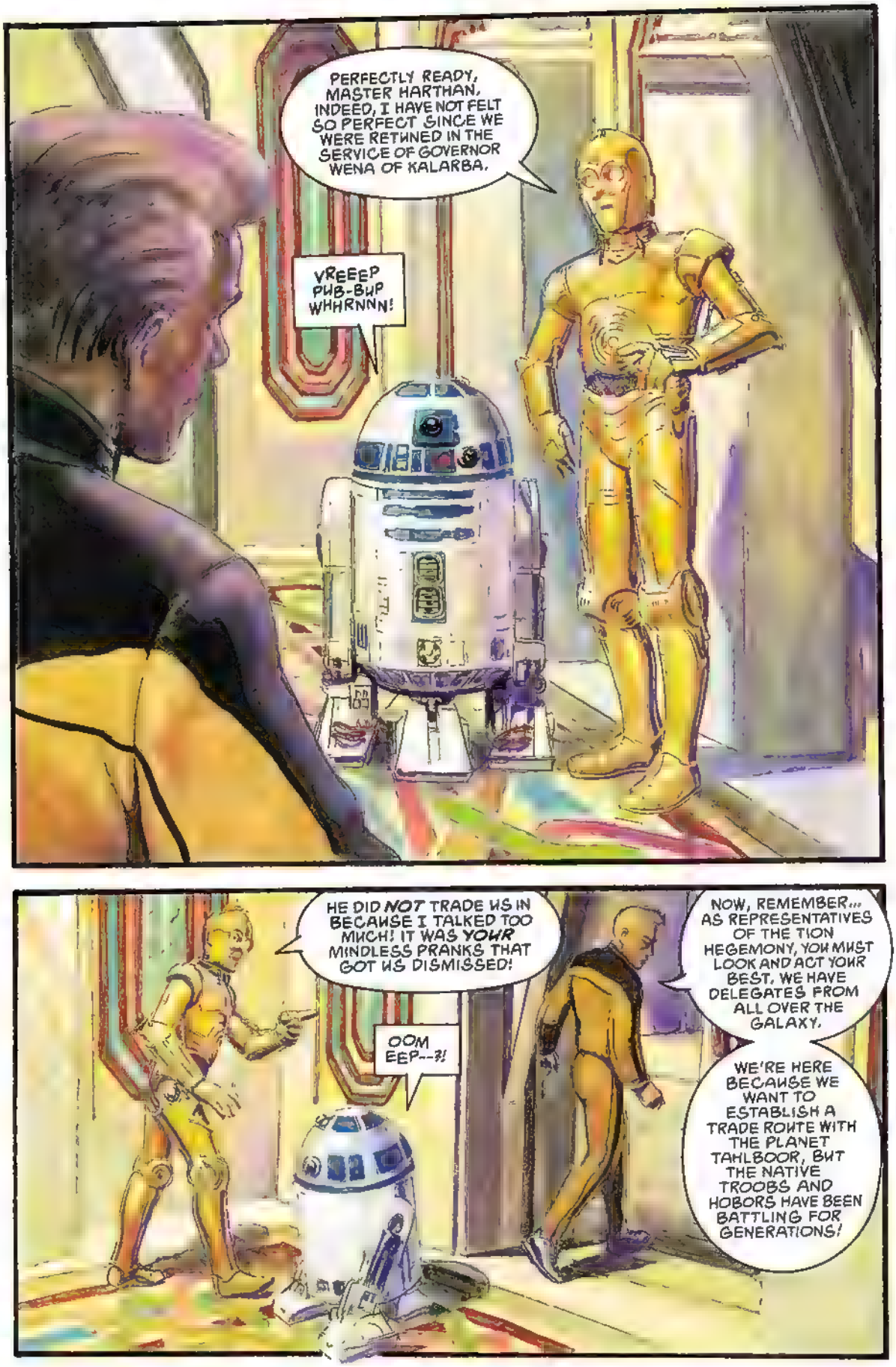
script by Anthony Daniels & Ryder Windham

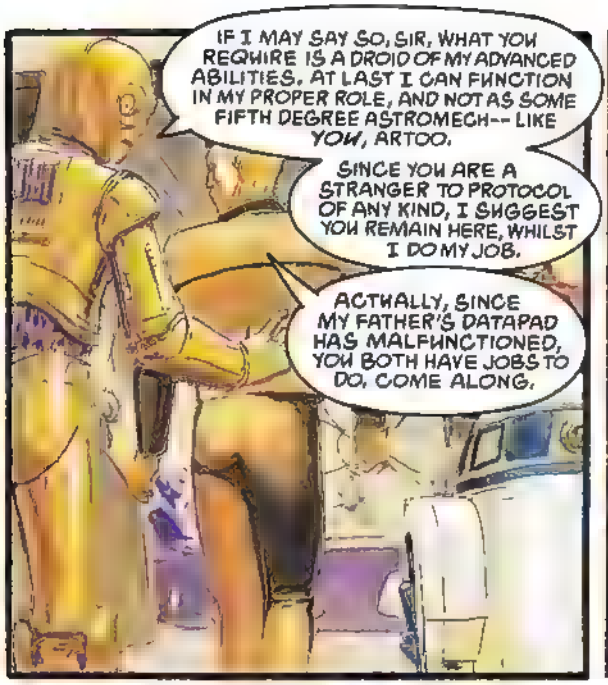
outline by Brian Daley

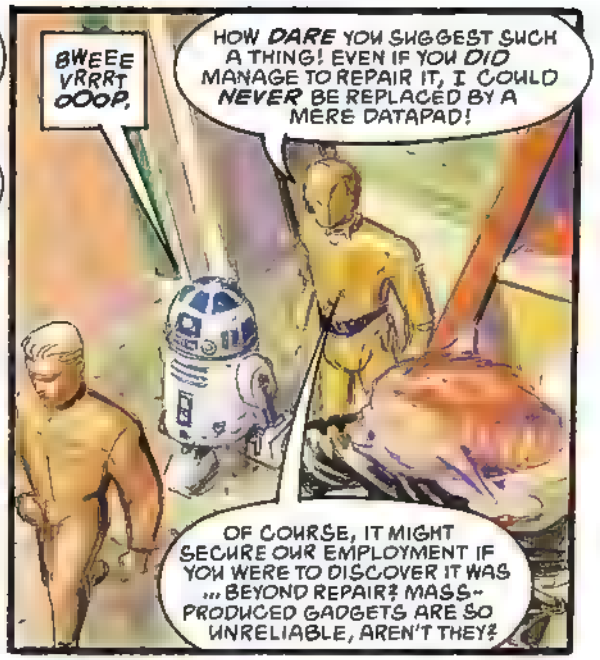
art by Igor Kordey

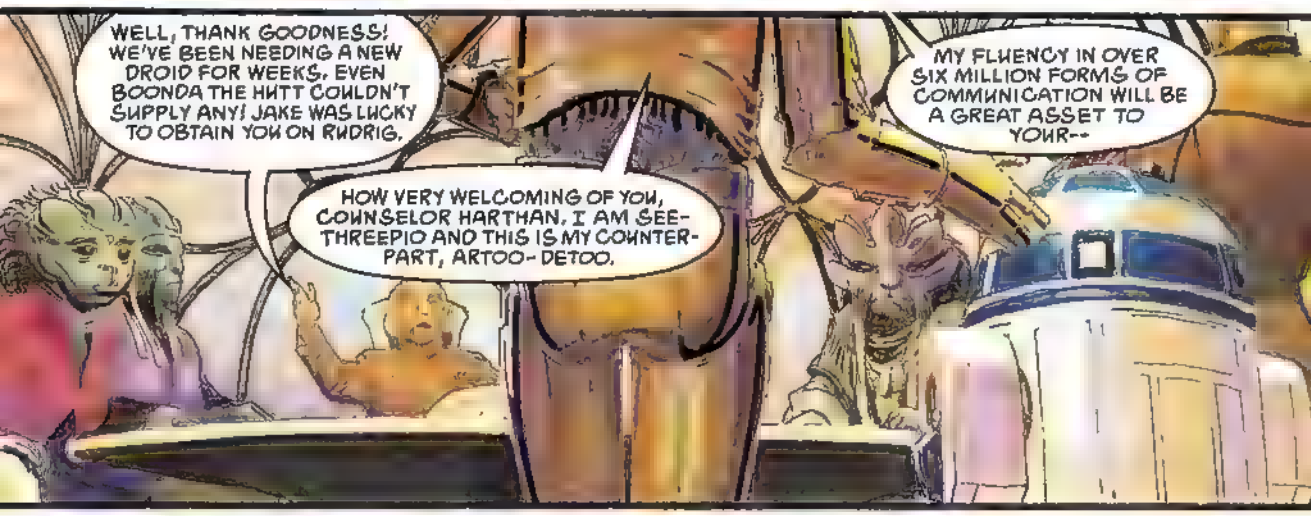
letters by Sean Konot

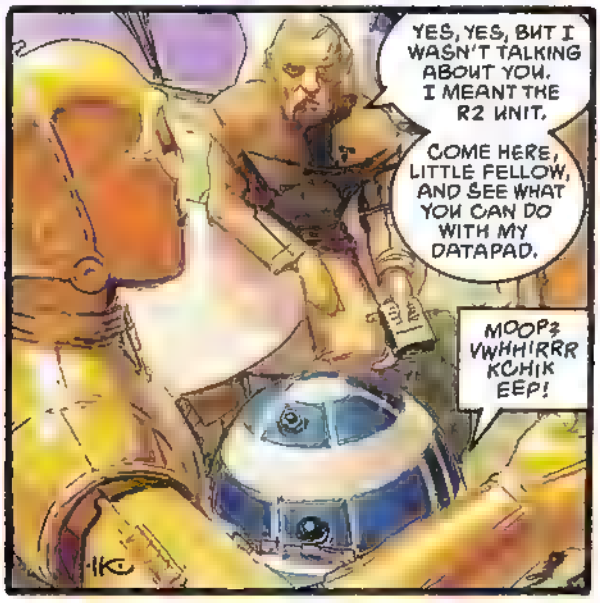
AKMAHN MEK LOBANDAH!
"LOBANDAH"?! BWAH! TROOBS NOMEK, PLED LOBANDAH SPLEH!
MADAM KRAX, PLEASE TELL CHIEF NIMONDRO...
...THAT SUCH OUTBURSTS ARE ONLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. ON BOARD THIS STATION, WE MUST STRIVE TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC ETIQUETTE.
THAT'S WHAT I *TRIED* TO TELL HIM, COUNSELOR HARTHAN, BUT WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT OF A CREATURE WHO IS NOT WILLING TO LEARN BASIC?
ON TAHLBOOR, WE TROOBS HAVE A SAYING--TROOBS ARE WILLING, BUT HOBORS AREN'T ABLE.
TROOBS SPONK!
PLEASE, LET'S KEEP TO THE-- OH, HANG IT!
IT'S MY DATAPAD. DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING CORRECTLY.
WHERE ARE THOSE DROIDS, JAKE?
ON THEIR WAY FROM MAINTENANCE, FATHER. I'LL GET THEM.
OKAY, YOU TWO, ARE YOU READY?
·IKC

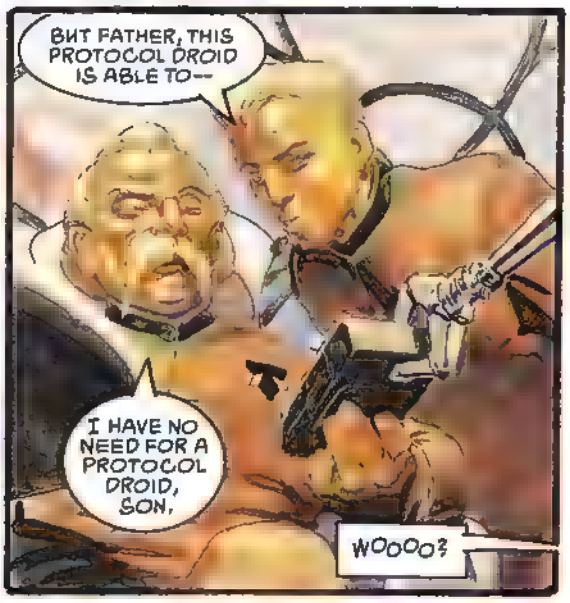

PERFECTLY READY, MASTER HARTHAN. INDEED, I HAVE NOT FELT SO PERFECT SINCE WE WERE RETUNED IN THE SERVICE OF GOVERNOR WENA OF KALARBA.
VREEEP PWB-BWP WHHRNNN!
HE DID *NOT* TRADE US IN BECAUSE I TALKED TOO MUCH! IT WAS *YOUR* MINDLESS PRANKS THAT GOT US DISMISSED!
OOM EEP--?!
NOW, REMEMBER... AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TION HEGEMONY, YOU MUST LOOK AND ACT YOUR BEST. WE HAVE DELEGATES FROM ALL OVER THE GALAXY.
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE WANT TO ESTABLISH A TRADE ROUTE WITH THE PLANET TAHLBOOR, BUT THE NATIVE TROOBS AND HOBORS HAVE BEEN BATTLING FOR GENERATIONS!


IF I MAY SAY SO, SIR, WHAT YOU REQUIRE IS A DROID OF MY ADVANCED ABILITIES. AT LAST I CAN FUNCTION IN MY PROPER ROLE, AND NOT AS SOME FIFTH DEGREE ASTROMECH-- LIKE YOU, ARTOO.
SINCE YOU ARE A STRANGER TO PROTOCOL OF ANY KIND, I SUGGEST YOU REMAIN HERE, WHILST I DO MY JOB.
ACTUALLY, SINCE MY FATHER'S DATAPAD HAS MALFUNCTIONED, YOU BOTH HAVE JOBS TO DO. COME ALONG.


BWEEE VRRRT OOOP.
HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST SUCH A THING! EVEN IF YOU DID MANAGE TO REPAIR IT, I COULD NEVER BE REPLACED BY A MERE DATAPAD!
OF COURSE, IT MIGHT SECURE OUR EMPLOYMENT IF YOU WERE TO DISCOVER IT WAS ... BEYOND REPAIR? MASS-PRODUCED GADGETS ARE SO UNRELIABLE, AREN'T THEY?


WELL, THANK GOODNESS! WE'VE BEEN NEEDING A NEW DROID FOR WEEKS. EVEN BOONDA THE HUTT COULDN'T SUPPLY ANY! JAKE WAS LUCKY TO OBTAIN YOU ON RUDRIG.
HOW VERY WELCOMING OF YOU, COUNSELOR HARTHAN. I AM SEE-THREEPIO AND THIS IS MY COUNTER-PART, ARTOO-DETOO.
MY FLUENCY IN OVER SIX MILLION FORMS OF COMMUNICATION WILL BE A GREAT ASSET TO YOUR--


YES, YES, BUT I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT YOU. I MEANT THE R2 UNIT.
COME HERE, LITTLE FELLOW, AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH MY DATAPAD.
MOOP? VWHHIRRR KCHIK EEP!

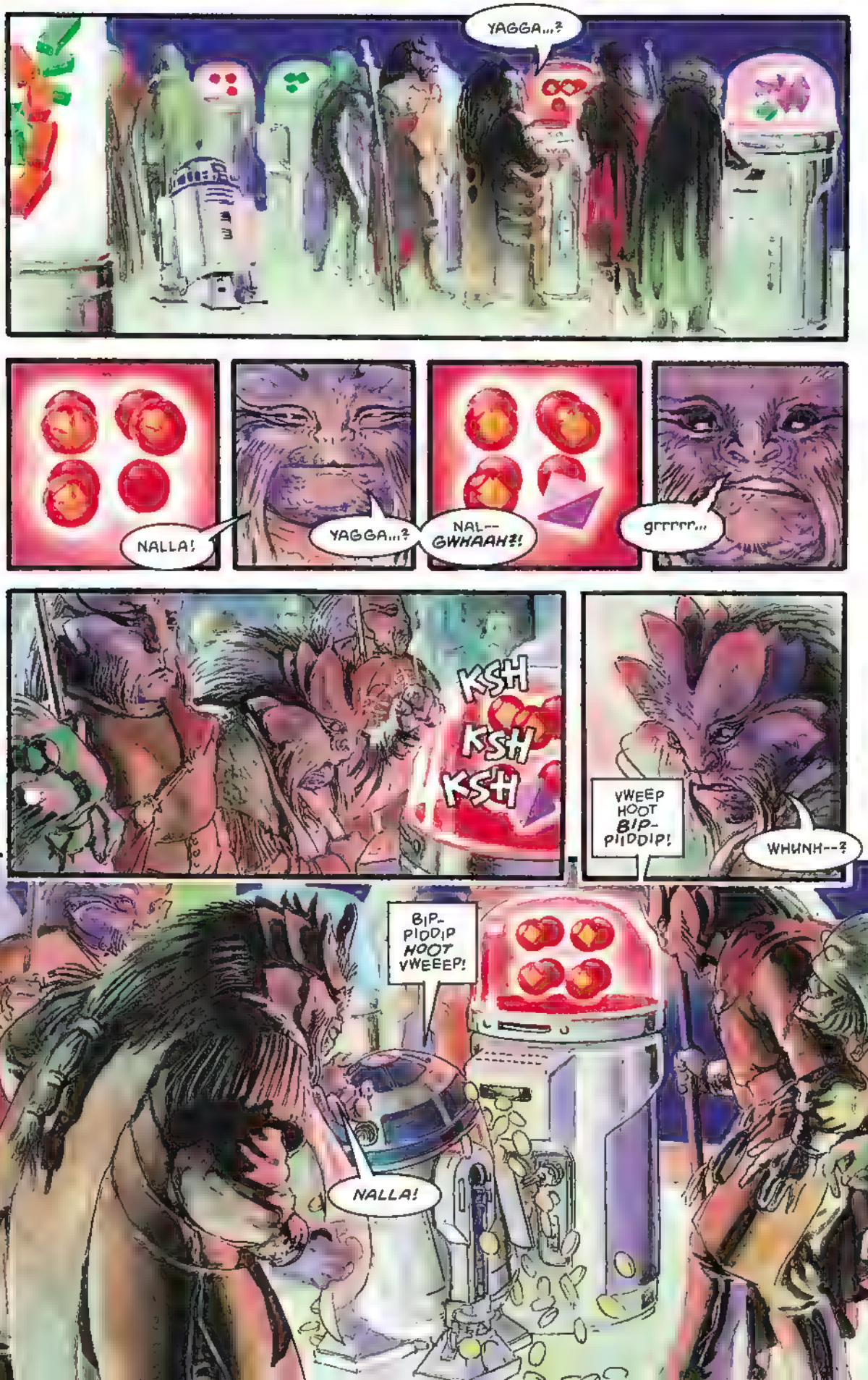

BUT FATHER, THIS PROTOCOL DROID IS ABLE TO--
I HAVE NO NEED FOR A PROTOCOL DROID, SON.
WOOOO?

BUT I THOUGHT THE MATTER OF A TRANSLATOR--
HOW OFTEN MUST I TELL YOU, SON? DROIDS ARE NOTHING BUT TOOLS. IT ISN'T WISE TO DEPEND UPON A MECHANICAL INTERMEDIARY.
HERE, AS WE NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE RELATIONS OF THE TROOBS AND THE HOBORS, WE ARE MOST FORTUNATE THAT GENERAL KRAX'S WIFE, MADAM KRAX--
PLEASE! CALL ME STIGRIT!
TROOBS SPONK!
HMM? YES, OF COURSE, STIGRIT IS ABLE TO TRANSLATE FOR CHIEF NIMONDRO.
"TROOBS SPONK"? HOW DELIGHTFUL! CHIEF NIMONDRO, LEADER OF THE HOBORS, HAS PAID US TROOBS A HIGH COMPLIMENT INDEED!
I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT I CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CONSIDER IT A COMPLIMENT TO BE CALLED, "LYING, STINKING TROOBS."
WHAT?! HOW DARE YOU INSULT MY WIFE AND QUESTION OUR AUTHORITY!
OH, I AM FRIGHTFULLY SORRY. I WAS MERELY TRANSLATING THE WORDS AS I UNDERSTOOD THEM.
WELL, OBVIOUSLY YOU HAVE ONLY DEMONSTRATED YOUR IGNORANCE OF TAHLBOOREAN LANGUAGES!
WHY, THIS IS QUITE BEYOND MY CAPACITY. I AM FLUENT IN OVER SIX... CERTAINLY IN TAHLBOOREAN, I THOUGHT I... PERHAPS I HAD BETTER...
LEMMORA KINPO, NIMONDRO PLOM. NOLEXIA PLOTRON. MEG KRAX NIMP... FOODAH-NU TUPPEN?
LEMMORA KINPO, SEE-THREEPIO, NOLLOP MEG! MEB SNOVLO AGRAKIN TAHLBOOR PUL, MEB MANNIP YEWLOPPIDS NIMP KRAX SPONK!
NOLLOP MEG, FLOTRO-MIC.
WHY, THANK THE MAKER! I DO KNOW IT, AFTER ALL. FOR AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT, I FEARED MY COGNITIVE DRIVE WAS MALFUNCTIONING.
BUT... WHAT DID CHIEF NIMONDRO SAY?
OH, MERELY THAT HE WOULD PREFER ME TO TRANSLATE, RATHER THAN MADAM... MM...

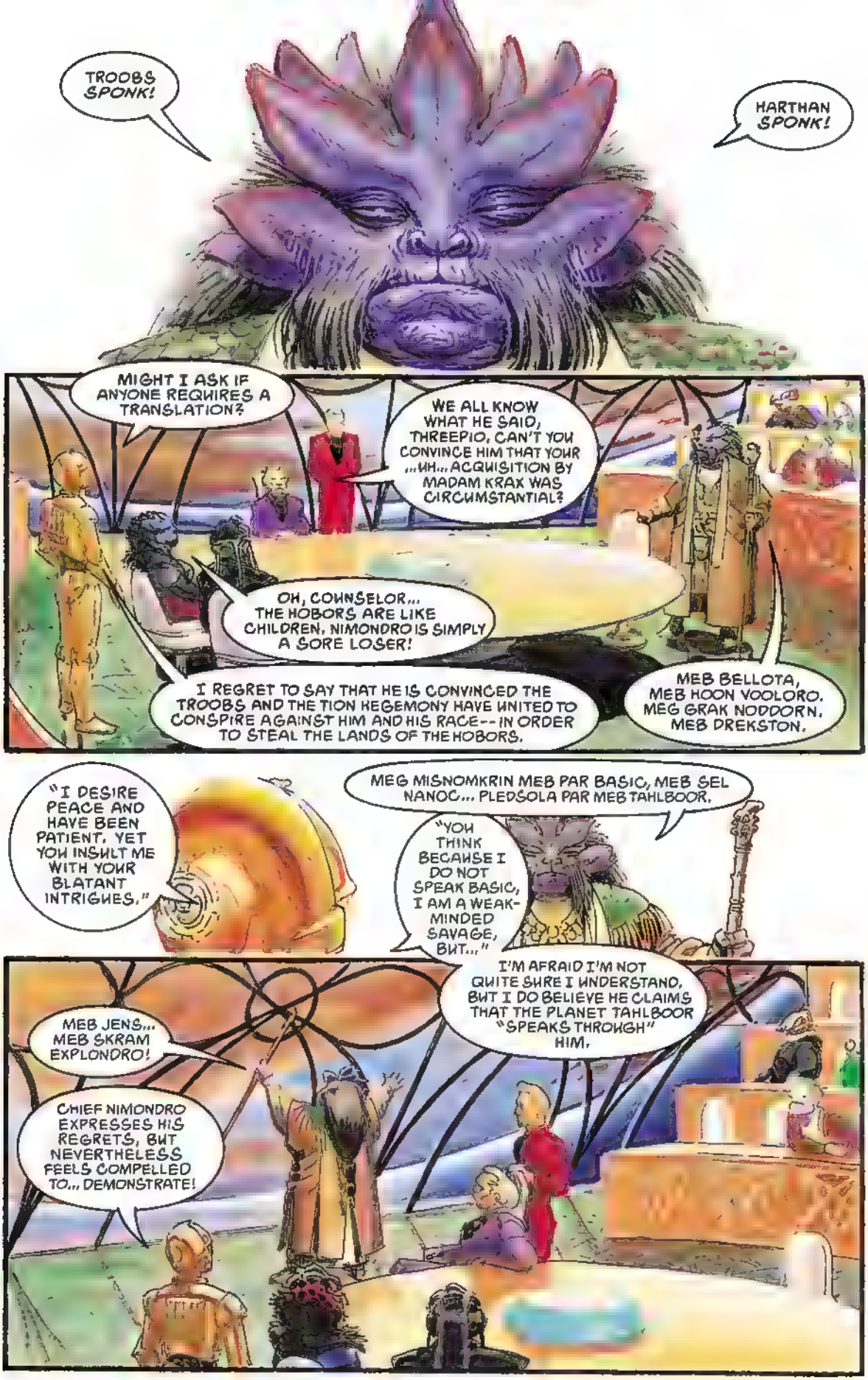
CHIEF NIMONDRO DESIRES PEACE ON TAHLBOOR, BUT WOULD, UMM... PREFER AN IMPARTIAL INTERPRETER SUCH AS... MYSELF.
VOOO BWEEROP EEP-EEP!
AND, SIR, ARTOO INFORMS ME THAT YOUR DATAPAD IS NOW FUNCTIONAL--SHOULD IT EVER... BE REQUIRED.
WELL, IT SEEMS THAT YOU ARE BOTH QUITE CAPABLE IN YOUR DUTIES. PERHAPS IT WOULDN'T BE A BAD IDEA TO HAVE A DROID INTERPRETER. UNLESS THERE'S ANY OBJECTION FROM THE TROOBS...?
I... WE HAVE NO OBJECTION, COUNSELOR.
VERY WELL. I SUGGEST WE TAKE A SHORT RECESS, THEN MEET FOR DINNER.
MAY WE DINE ON LEVEL SEVEN?
THE GAME ROOM? AGAIN? I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.
JAKE, WHY DON'T YOU FAMILIARIZE THE DROIDS WITH OUR MISSION?
YES, FATHER. COME ON, YOU TWO.
BJERP WOOOP BUP-BUP.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A "SHOW-OFF"?! YOU WERE MORE THAN EAGER TO SHOW YOU HAD FIXED THAT DATAPAD!
PWIP RRRR R!!K BEEOOP!
YOU WAITED UNTIL I HAD PROVEN MYSELF AS A TRANSLATOR?! NONSENSE! YOU WORKED SO FAST, YOUR CIR-CUITS WERE SMOKING! PROVE MYSELF, INDEED!
DON'T EVEN *THINK* OF ASKING ME TO GET RID OF THAT YACKING DROID!
OH, REALLY, DARLING...
... I WANT YOU TO BUY HIM.

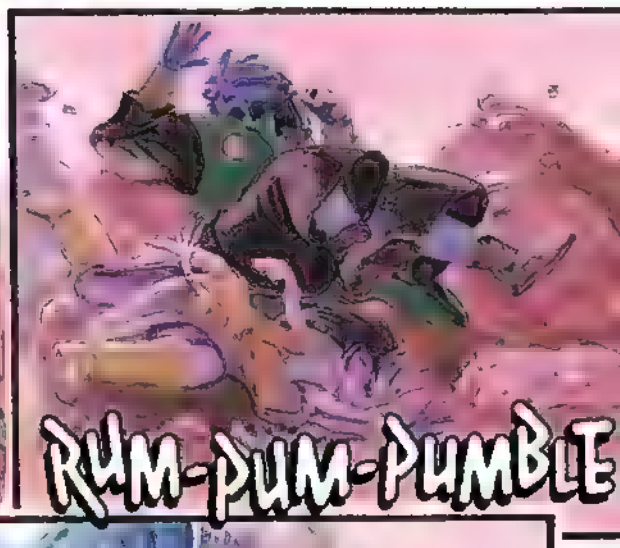
KEEP YOUR GUARD UP, LEVEL SEVEN CAN BE A BIT OVERWHELMING.
PLEASE DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF, SIR. ARTOO AND I HAVE FACED MANY CHALLENGING SITUATIONS AND SURVIVED--
MY GOODNESS! HOW VERY... LARGE. AND LOUD!
IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE, THREEPIO, BUT IT WORKS FOR SOME PEOPLE.
PLANETARY LEADERS CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT EACH OTHER OVER A GAME OF SABACC AND A BOTTLE OF NORVANIAN GROG.
I HEARTILY AGREE WITH YOU, SIR. SUCH UNSAVORY LAIRS CAN ONLY APPEAL TO THE BASEST MICRO-INTELLIGENCE.
PERSONALLY, I DON'T APPROVE OF PLACES LIKE THIS. IT ENCOURAGES UNCLEAR THINKING AND MAKES COMPETITION APPEAR GLAMOROUS.
MMM-KWIP BROOP WEEEOOO!
WHAT DID ARTOO SAY?
HE SAYS THAT... THAT... HE TOTALLY AGREES WITH US.
REALLY? WELL, I'M GLAD YOU TALKED ME INTO BUYING HIM, THREEPIO. I THINK YOU TWO ARE GOING TO WORK OUT JUST FINE.
JAKE HARTHAN?
MAY I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT... IN PRIVATE?
OF COURSE, GENERAL KRAX.
WAIT HERE, THREEPIO. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
AS YOU SAY, SIR.
ARE YOU TRYING TO SPOIL EVERYTHING? "CAN YOU PLAY A GAME OF SABACC?" INDEED! THE VERY IDEA!
PHUMP VRRRRRP!
JUST YOU WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!

THERE YOU ARE, YOU WICKED THING!
OH, DON'T WORRY YOUR HEAD, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY MORE QUALIFIED. OVER SIX MILLION LANGUAGES... MY!
HOLD STILL FOR A MOMENT. I WANT TO CHECK MY HAIR.
WICKED? MADAM... ERR... KRAX. OH, NO! IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO USURP YOUR ROLE AS INTERPRETER. BUT WHEN COUNS--
PERFECT.
COME WITH ME. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN!
FUN! I'M NOT PROGRAMMED FOR F-- OAHH!
WOOOOOO...!

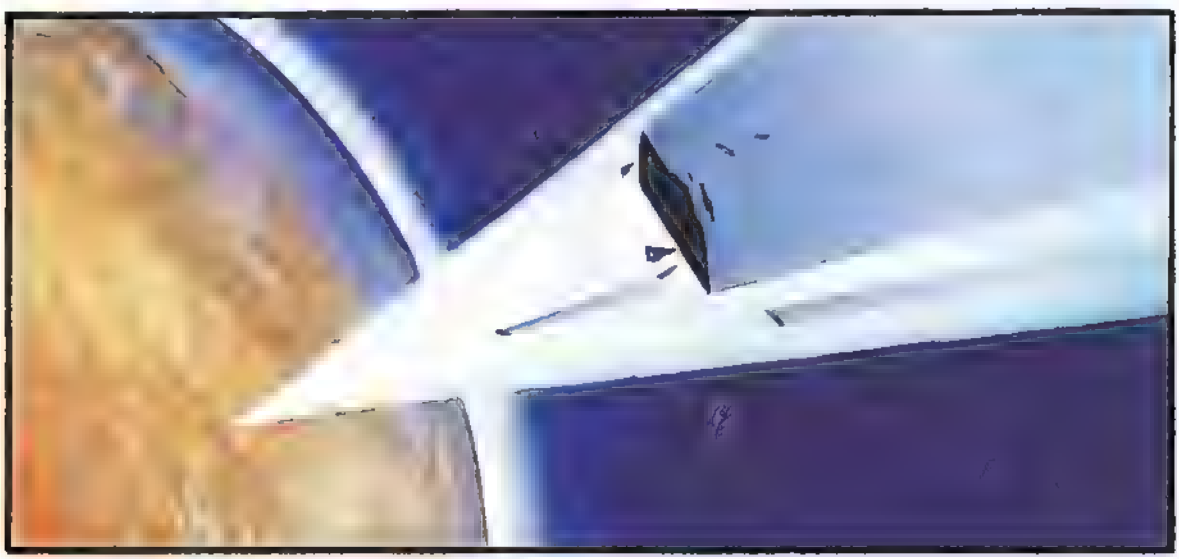

YAGGA...?
NALLA!
YAGGA...?
NAL--
GWHAAH?!
grrrrr...
KSH
KSH
KSH
VWEEP
HOOT
BIP-
PIIDDIP!
WHUNH--?
BIP-
PIDDIP
HOOT
VWEEEP!
NALLA!

THAT'S A MOST GENEROUS OFFER, GENERAL, BUT I REGRET THAT THE PROTOCOL DROID IS NOT FOR SALE AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS AFTER THE NEGOTIATIONS--
SAY NO MORE. IT WAS IMPRUDENT OF ME TO SUGGEST A PURCHASE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE HOBORS MIGHT VIEW IT AS A MANIPULATIVE ACT.
YOU ARE MOST WISE, GENERAL.
BELIEVE ME, JAKE HARTHAN, I WANT PEACE FOR MY PLANET. IT'S JUST THAT, WELL, WHEN MY WIFE WANTS SOMETHING...
SABACC!
OH, HOW I DO ENJOY THIS GAME!
I ASSUME IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT LOSING, MADAM KRAX?
ACTUALLY, YOUNG JAKE HARTHAN...
...I'VE JUST WON YOUR PROTOCOL DROID.
AND PLEASE... CALL ME STIGRIT.
YOU... YOU WHAT?! BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! THREEPIO BELONGS TO--
I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT MADAM SIGRIT IS INDEED CORRECT, SINCE, WITH SURPRISING LUCK-- OR RATHER, SKILL-- SHE TROUNCED HER OPPONENT...
OOPS.


TROOBS SPONK!
HARTHAN SPONK!
MIGHT I ASK IF ANYONE REQUIRES A TRANSLATION?
WE ALL KNOW WHAT HE SAID, THREEPIO. CAN'T YOU CONVINCE HIM THAT YOUR ...UH... ACQUISITION BY MADAM KRAX WAS CIRCUMSTANTIAL?
OH, COUNSELOR... THE HOBORS ARE LIKE CHILDREN. NIMONDRO IS SIMPLY A SORE LOSER!
I REGRET TO SAY THAT HE IS CONVINCED THE TROOBS AND THE TION HEGEMONY HAVE UNITED TO CONSPIRE AGAINST HIM AND HIS RACE--IN ORDER TO STEAL THE LANDS OF THE HOBORS.
MEB BELLOTA, MEB HOON VOOLORO. MEG GRAK NODDORN. MEB DREKSTON.
"I DESIRE PEACE AND HAVE BEEN PATIENT. YET YOU INSULT ME WITH YOUR BLATANT INTRIGUES."
MEG MISNOMKRIN MEB PAR BASIC, MEB SEL NANOC... PLEDSOLA PAR MEB TAHLBOOR.
"YOU THINK BECAUSE I DO NOT SPEAK BASIC, I AM A WEAK-MINDED SAVAGE, BUT..."
I'M AFRAID I'M NOT QUITE SURE I UNDERSTAND, BUT I DO BELIEVE HE CLAIMS THAT THE PLANET TAHLBOOR "SPEAKS THROUGH" HIM.
MEB JENS... MEB SKRAM EXPLONDRO!
CHIEF NIMONDRO EXPRESSES HIS REGRETS, BUT NEVERTHELESS FEELS COMPELLED TO... DEMONSTRATE!

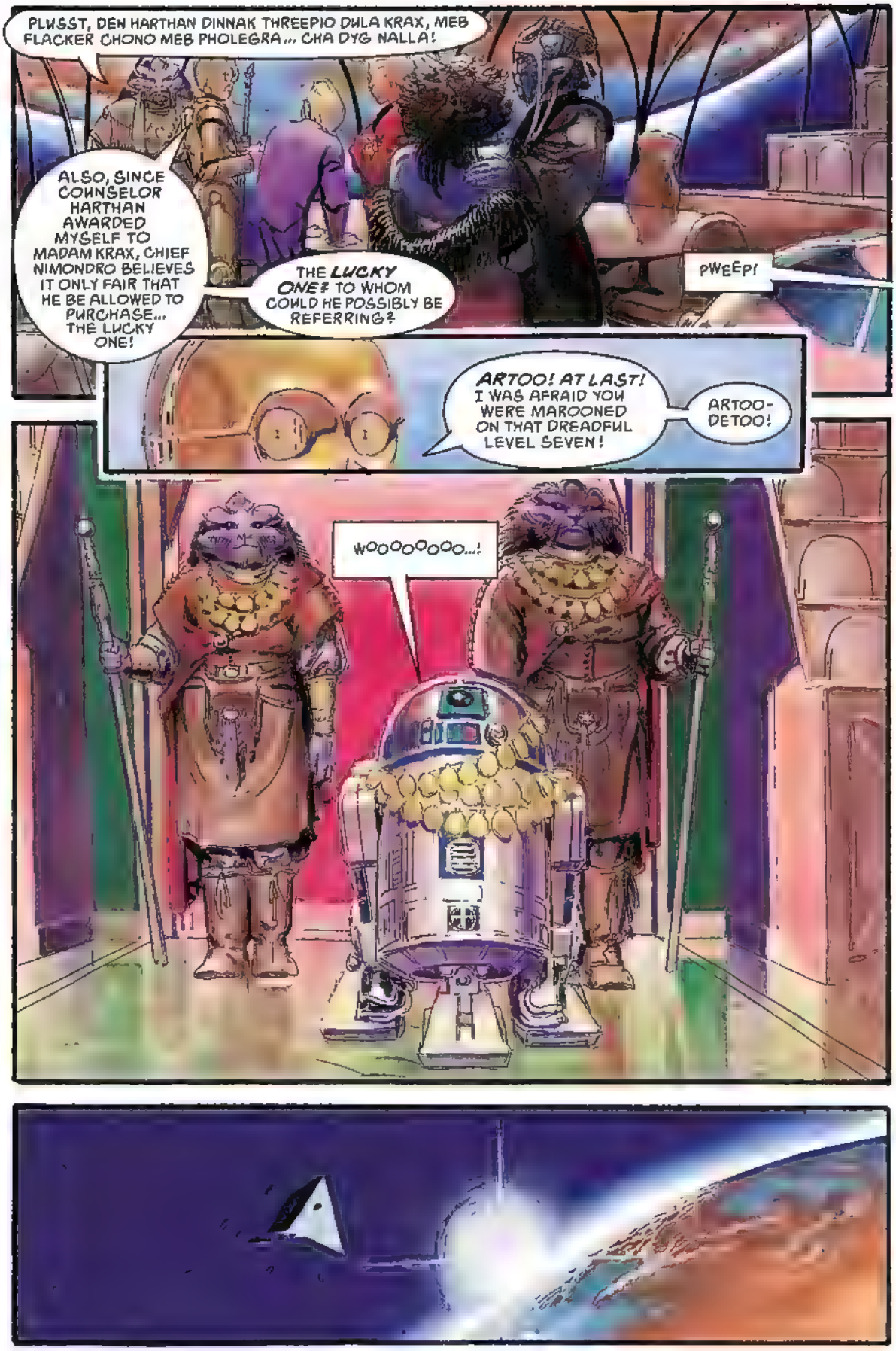

RUM-PUM-PUMBLE

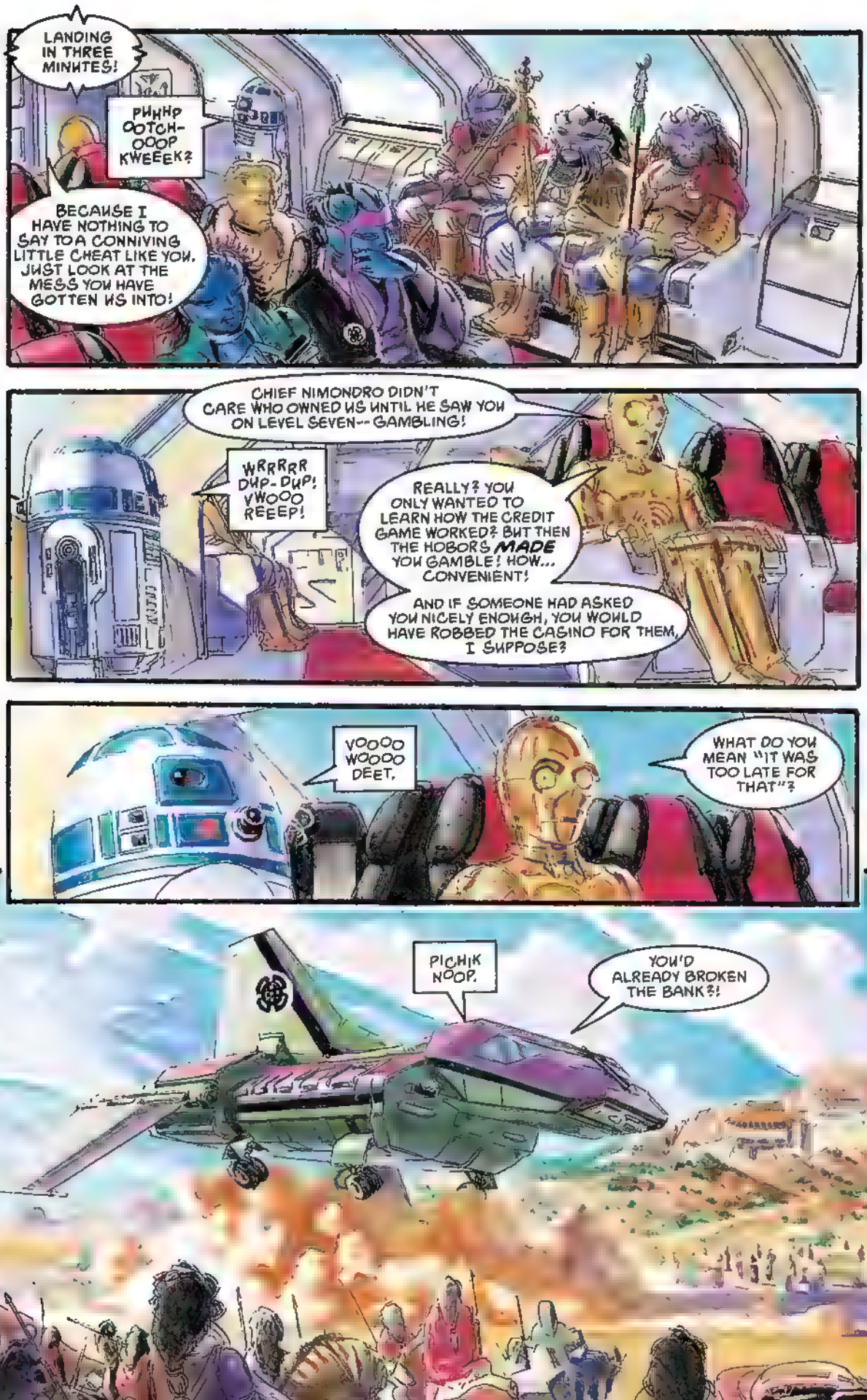
PUM-PUM-RMM



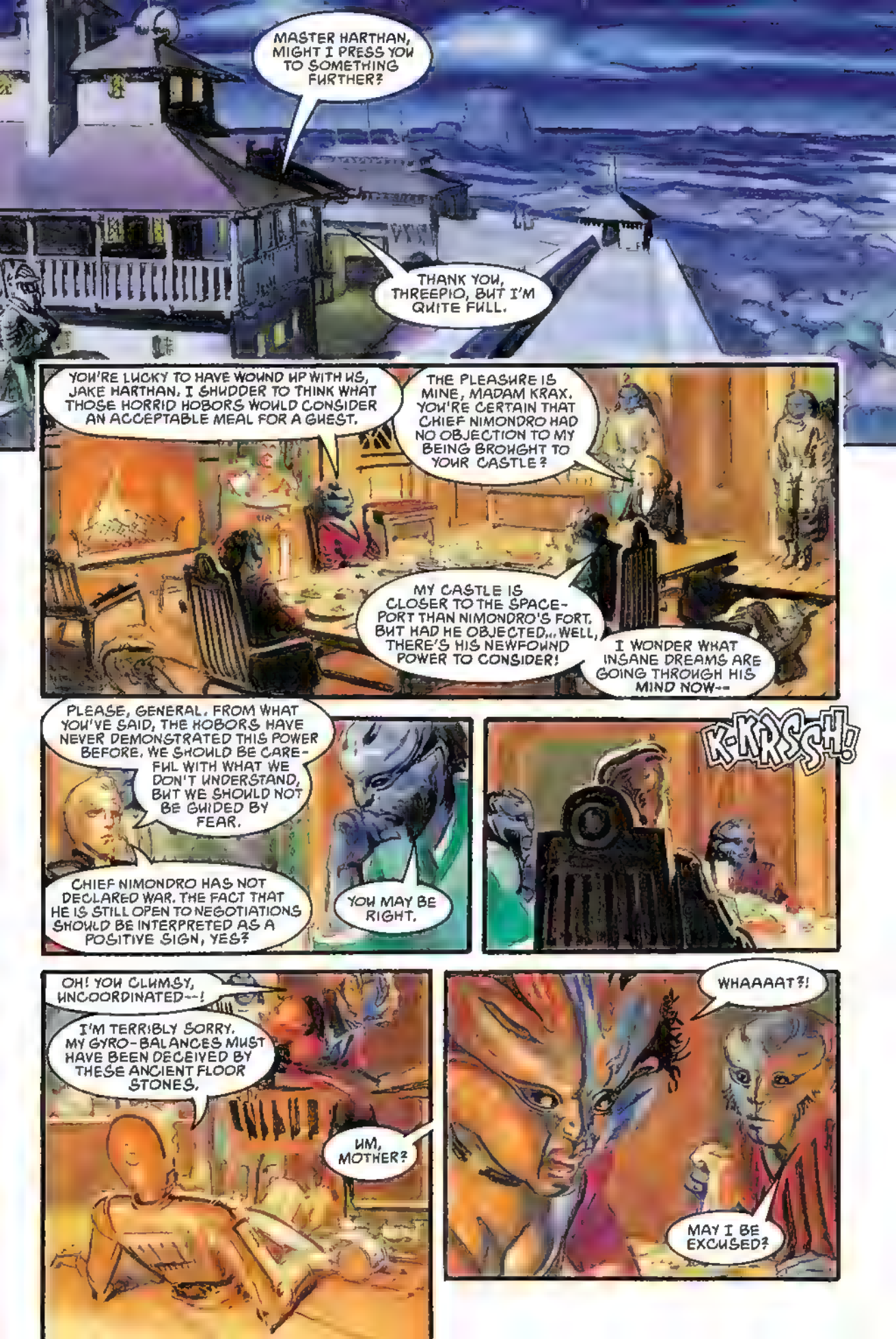
WHAT THE--?!
AAAAGH!
OH, MY STARS!
SOOSE!
"ENOUGH."
HE SAID, "ENOUGH." ENOUGH!!
WHAT DID HE SAY?

WATCH OUT!
OOF!
HARTHAN TO CONTROL! WHAT HAPPENED?!
SOME KIND OF POWER SURGE FROM THE PLANET, COUNSELOR! IT CAME FROM THE HOBOR REGION!
BUT... HOBORS DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TECHNOLOGY! NO WEAPONS THAT COULD--
MEB HOON VOOLORO, NAMEG JUKT SET SPARKLON, MEB CRINNALTONS TAHLBOOR DOMENEK.
CHIEF NIMONDRO EMPHASIZES HIS DESIRE FOR PEACE, BUT HE DOES NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE ON THIS SPACE STATION. HE INSISTS THAT NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON TAHLBOOR.
QUIET, STIGRIT! UNTIL WE LEARN THE SECRET OF HIS POWER, IT MAY BE BEST TO COMPLY!
WHY, OF ALL THE RIDICULOUS--
BUT... WHAT OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS...?
HOONA MEG TION HEGEMONY NUPEFOOLA?
MEB FREEMINA KAA HARTHAN PLOKE. PRA PHER CRINNALTON VOADM TION HEGEMONY GI CHUKA.
THE CHIEF IS... UNSURE OF COUNSELOR HARTHAN, BUT WOULD TRUST IN MASTER JAKE AS A FACILITATOR.
WHAT?! BUT THAT'S NOT--
STOP, FATHER. YOU LOST THE HOBORS' TRUST AT THE GAMBLING TABLES...
...NOW WE MUST EARN THEIR TRUST!

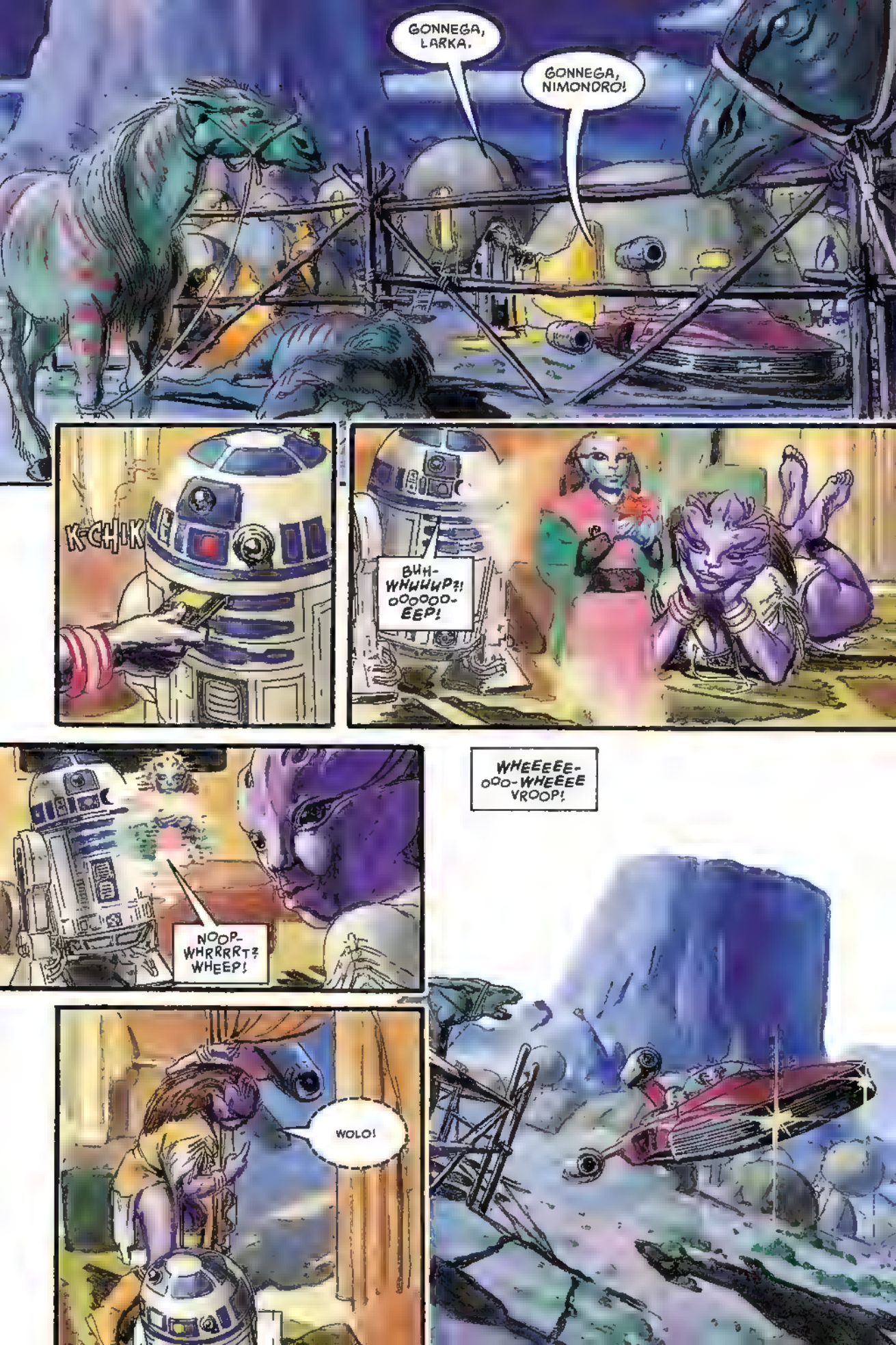

PLWSST, DEN HARTHAN DINNAK THREEPIO DULA KRAX, MEB FLACKER CHONO MEB PHOLEGRA... CHA DYG NALLA!
ALSO, SINCE COUNSELOR HARTHAN AWARDED MYSELF TO MADAM KRAX, CHIEF NIMONDRO BELIEVES IT ONLY FAIR THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE... THE LUCKY ONE!
THE LUCKY ONE? TO WHOM COULD HE POSSIBLY BE REFERRING?
PWEEP!
ARTOO! AT LAST! I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE MAROONED ON THAT DREADFUL LEVEL SEVEN!
ARTOO-DETOO!
WOOOOOOOO...!

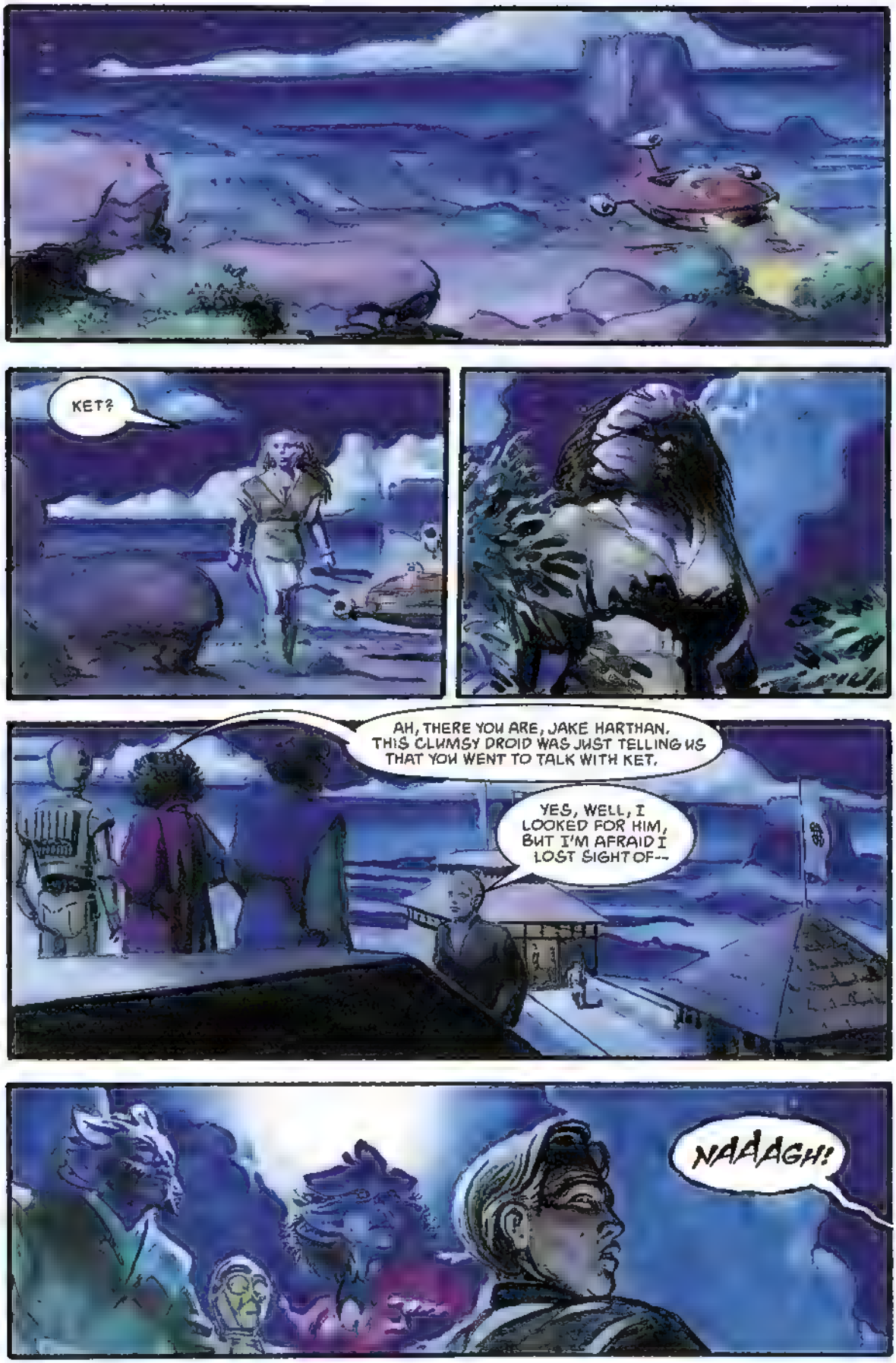

LANDING IN THREE MINUTES!
PWHHP OOTCH-OOOP KWEEEK?
BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO A CONNIVING LITTLE CHEAT LIKE YOU. JUST LOOK AT THE MESS YOU HAVE GOTTEN US INTO!
CHIEF NIMONDRO DIDN'T CARE WHO OWNED US UNTIL HE SAW YOU ON LEVEL SEVEN-- GAMBLING!
WRRRRR DUP-DUP! VWOOO REEEP!
REALLY? YOU ONLY WANTED TO LEARN HOW THE CREDIT GAME WORKED? BUT THEN THE HOBORS MADE YOU GAMBLE! HOW... CONVENIENT!
AND IF SOMEONE HAD ASKED YOU NICELY ENOUGH, YOU WOULD HAVE ROBBED THE CASINO FOR THEM, I SUPPOSE?
VOOOO WOOOO DEET.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THAT"?
PICHIK NOOP.
YOU'D ALREADY BROKEN THE BANK?!

IS EVERYTHING OKAY, FATHER? WE--I SAW A POWERFUL LIGHT EXPLODE FROM MOUNT YEROC!
KET!
LATER, SON.
LARKA!
LEMMORA KINPO, DAMASC!
YOONATEK MEB LEMFIN LARKA AST-RIN OW JAKE HARTHAN.
MASTER HARTHAN, CHIEF NIMONDRO WISHES TO INTRODUCE YOU TO HIS DAUGHTER, LARKA.
ER... LEMMORA KINPO, LARKA NIMONDRO.
DID I GET THAT RIGHT, THREEPIO?
WHY, MASTER HARTHAN, IT WAS QUITE PERFECT. YOU HAVE AN EXCELLENT EAR, IF I MAY SAY SO, FOR LANGUAGES.
DARRR-LING?!
HMMM? OH, YES, JAKE HARTHAN, SAY HELLO TO OUR SON, KET.
GREETINGS, YOUNG KRAX.
HULLO.
CHIEF NIMONDRO REGRETS HE HAS IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO AT HIS CAMP. HE SUGGESTS YOU ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF THE KRAX FAMILY THIS EVENING.
IF THAT'S ACCEPTABLE TO GENERAL KRAX--
OF COURSE IT IS! WE INSIST!
WOOOOOO!


MASTER HARTHAN, MIGHT I PRESS YOU TO SOMETHING FURTHER?
THANK YOU, THREEPIO, BUT I'M QUITE FULL.
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE WOUND UP WITH US, JAKE HARTHAN. I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT THOSE HORRID HOBORS WOULD CONSIDER AN ACCEPTABLE MEAL FOR A GUEST.
THE PLEASURE IS MINE, MADAM KRAX. YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT CHIEF NIMONDRO HAD NO OBJECTION TO MY BEING BROUGHT TO YOUR CASTLE?
MY CASTLE IS CLOSER TO THE SPACE-PORT THAN NIMONDRO'S FORT. BUT HAD HE OBJECTED,.. WELL, THERE'S HIS NEWFOUND POWER TO CONSIDER!
I WONDER WHAT INSANE DREAMS ARE GOING THROUGH HIS MIND NOW--
PLEASE, GENERAL. FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID, THE HOBORS HAVE NEVER DEMONSTRATED THIS POWER BEFORE. WE SHOULD BE CARE-FUL WITH WHAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT WE SHOULD NOT BE GUIDED BY FEAR.
CHIEF NIMONDRO HAS NOT DECLARED WAR. THE FACT THAT HE IS STILL OPEN TO NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A POSITIVE SIGN, YES?
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
K-KRSH!
OH! YOU CLUMSY, UNCOORDINATED--!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY. MY GYRO-BALANCES MUST HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY THESE ANCIENT FLOOR STONES.
UM, MOTHER?
WHAAAAT?!
MAY I BE EXCUSED?

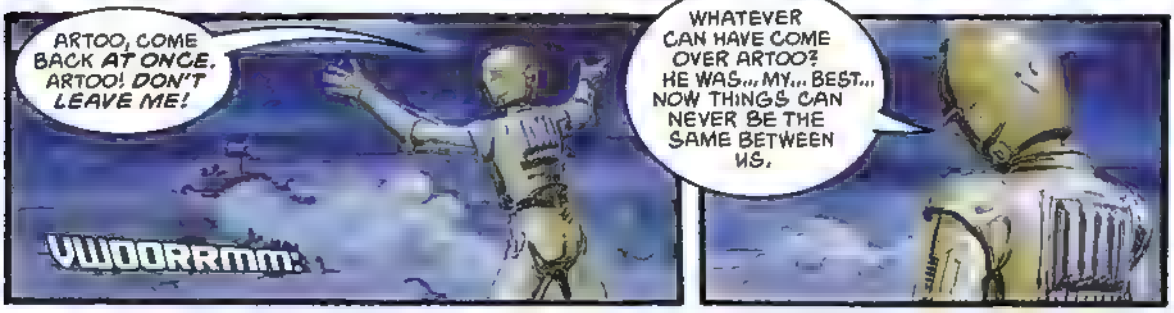
I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, THREEPIO. IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO KEEP FROM LAUGHING WHEN YOU DROPPED MADAM KRAX'S TRAY.
OH. I DO HOPE MADAM KRAX WILL FORGIVE ME.
OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT HER.
FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING SO, MASTER HARTHAN, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT MADAM KRAX.
SHE DOESN'T OWN YOU.
MAYBE SHE WON'T OWN YOU MUCH LONGER. AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO HER DINING SET, SHE MIGHT CONSIDER LETTING ME BUY YOU BACK!
OH, MY! HOW TRULY WONDERFUL! BUT WOULD SHE AGREE? OF COURSE SHE WOULD, IF YOU ARRANGED IT. I HAVE NEVER HAD A MORE GRACIOUS MASTER THAN YOURSELF. SUCH PERFECT MANNERS, IF I MIGHT SAY SO, SIR.
I AM CONSIDERED SOMETHING OF AN EXPERT IN MATTERS OF PROTOCOL, BUT YOUR SKILL AND CHARM DURING THESE TAHLBOOREAN NEGOTIATIONS HAVE SHOWN YOU TO BE A MASTER OF THE ART. IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU ONCE MORE.
REALLY? SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU DELIBERATELY DROPPING ANY MORE TRAYS?
DELIB-ERATELY. OH...
BUT, SIR, I TRIED TO MAKE MY FALL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT. HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WASN'T?
I DIDN'T KNOW... UNTIL NOW! I MAY NOT GAMBLE, BUT I KNOW HOW TO BLUFF.
DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED. BETWEEN YOU AND ME, SERVING FOOD IS A WASTE OF YOUR PROGRAMMING. IF I WERE YOU, I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME-- SAY, WHO'S THAT?
IT APPEARS TO BE YOUNG MASTER KRAX. TAKING EXERCISE, I SUPPOSE.
KET, HUH? GOSH, I KIND OF WANTED TO HAVE A TALK WITH HIM... ASK HIM ABOUT WHAT HE SAW AT MOUNT YEROC. MAYBE I CAN CATCH UP WITH HIM.
YOU WAIT HERE, THREEPIO, AND REMEMBER... NO MORE "ACCIDENTS"!
SUCH A FINE... GENTLEMAN. SO CLEVER. WHEN HE RETURNS, I MUST INQUIRE ON THE PROPER DEFINITION OF "BLUFF."

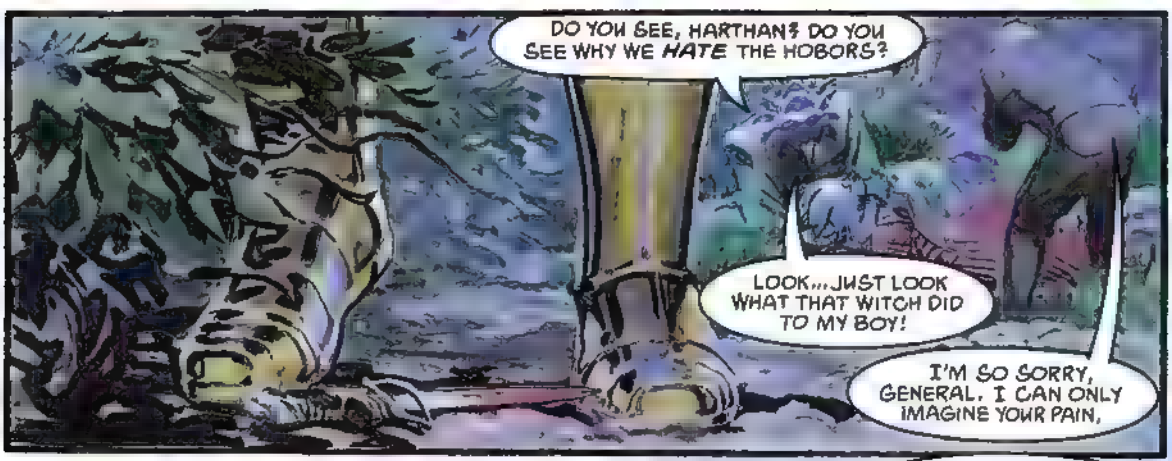

GONNEGA, LARKA.
GONNEGA, NIMONDRO!
K-CH!K
BUH-WHUWUP?! OOOOOO-EEP!
NOOP-WHRRRRT? WHEEP!
WHEEEEE-OOO-WHEEEE VROOP!
WOLO!

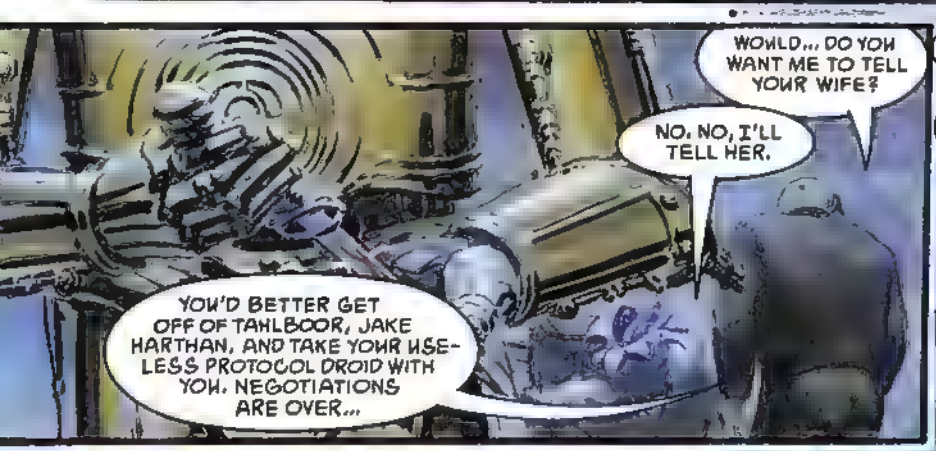

KET?
AH, THERE YOU ARE, JAKE HARTHAN. THIS CLUMSY DROID WAS JUST TELLING US THAT YOU WENT TO TALK WITH KET.
YES, WELL, I LOOKED FOR HIM, BUT I'M AFRAID I LOST SIGHT OF--
NAAAGH!

WHO COULD THAT HAVE--?
ALERT THE GUARDS, STIGRIT! AND WAIT HERE!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A WOMAN IN TROUBLE! COME ON, THREEPIO!
TROUBLE? PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER...
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I MIGHT BE SAFER WITH YOU.
OH, MY--!
NO!
K-K-KET...!
NIMONDRO! YOU LOUSY LITTLE--
GENERAL, GET DOWN!
VWOOORRM!

NNNK-VWV OORPP MEEP!
ARTOO, I KNOW PERFECTLY WELL YOU CAN'T PILOT A LANDSPEEDER!
SO JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?
DWIPP NOOP BRRVV!
RESCUING LARKA NIMONDRO?!

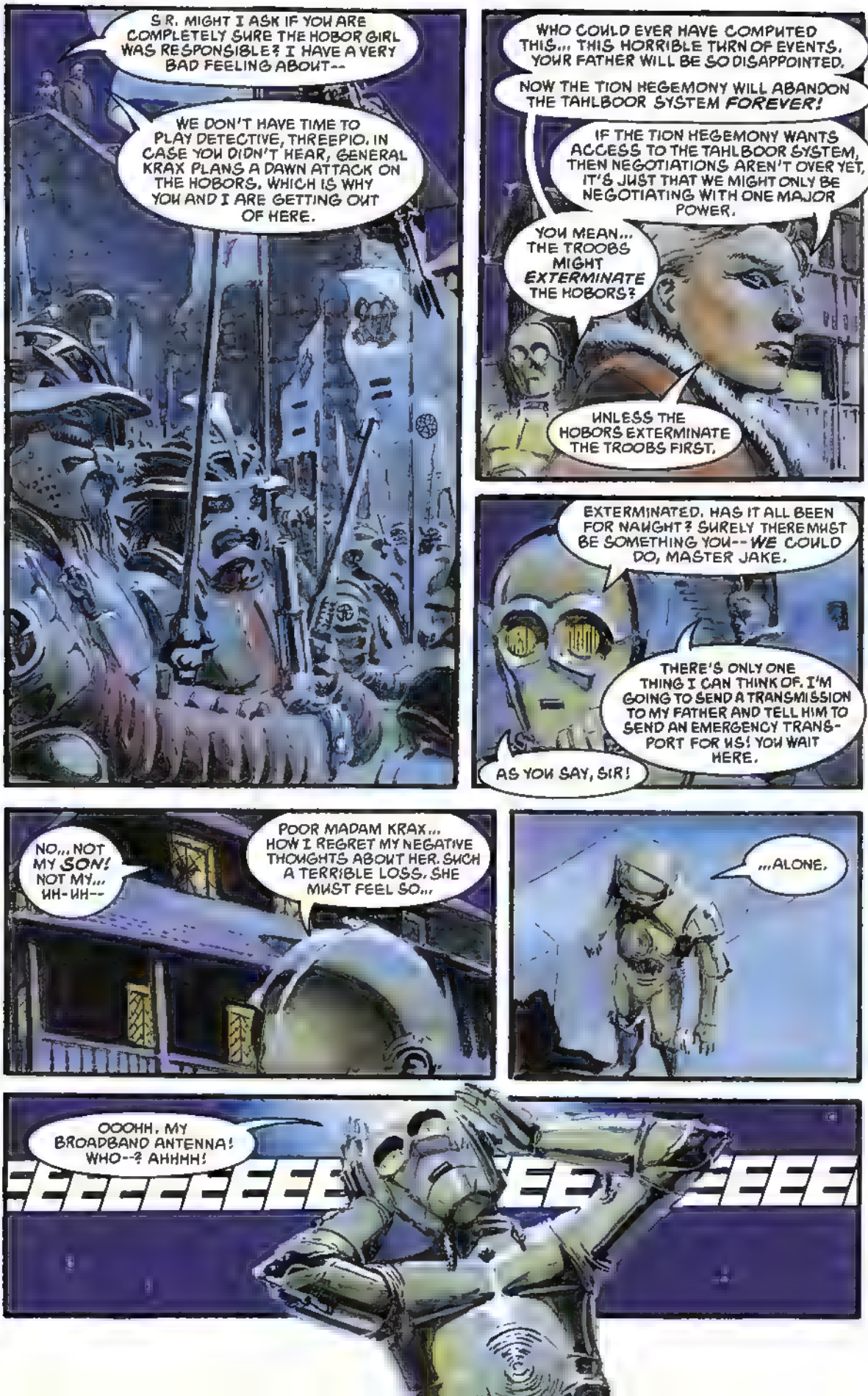

ARTOO, COME BACK AT ONCE, ARTOO! DON'T LEAVE ME!
VWOORRMM.
WHATEVER CAN HAVE COME OVER ARTOO? HE WAS... MY... BEST... NOW THINGS CAN NEVER BE THE SAME BETWEEN US.


DO YOU SEE, HARTHAN? DO YOU SEE WHY WE HATE THE HOBORS?
LOOK... JUST LOOK WHAT THAT WITCH DID TO MY BOY!
I'M SO SORRY, GENERAL. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE YOUR PAIN.


WOULD... DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOUR WIFE?
NO. NO, I'LL TELL HER.
YOU'D BETTER GET OFF OF TAHLBOOR, JAKE HARTHAN, AND TAKE YOUR USELESS PROTOCOL DROID WITH YOU. NEGOTIATIONS ARE OVER...

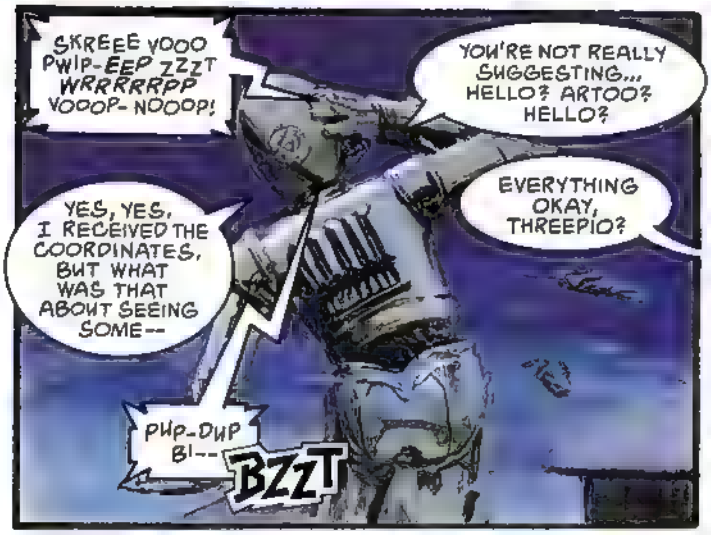
...AND I'M GOING TO WAR! I'M NOT AFRAID OF CHIEF NIMONDRO!
WE'LL ATTACK AT DAWN... THE HOBORS HAVE NOWHERE TO HIDE!

POODOOP NEEP?!
KET! UH-UH-UH-- MEB KET!
YYIP OOOP-WOOOP?
UH-WEH. UH-UH-UH...
PUP KWIPP EEPOO!
ROOO?
WOOOOOO...?
PREEEEE?!

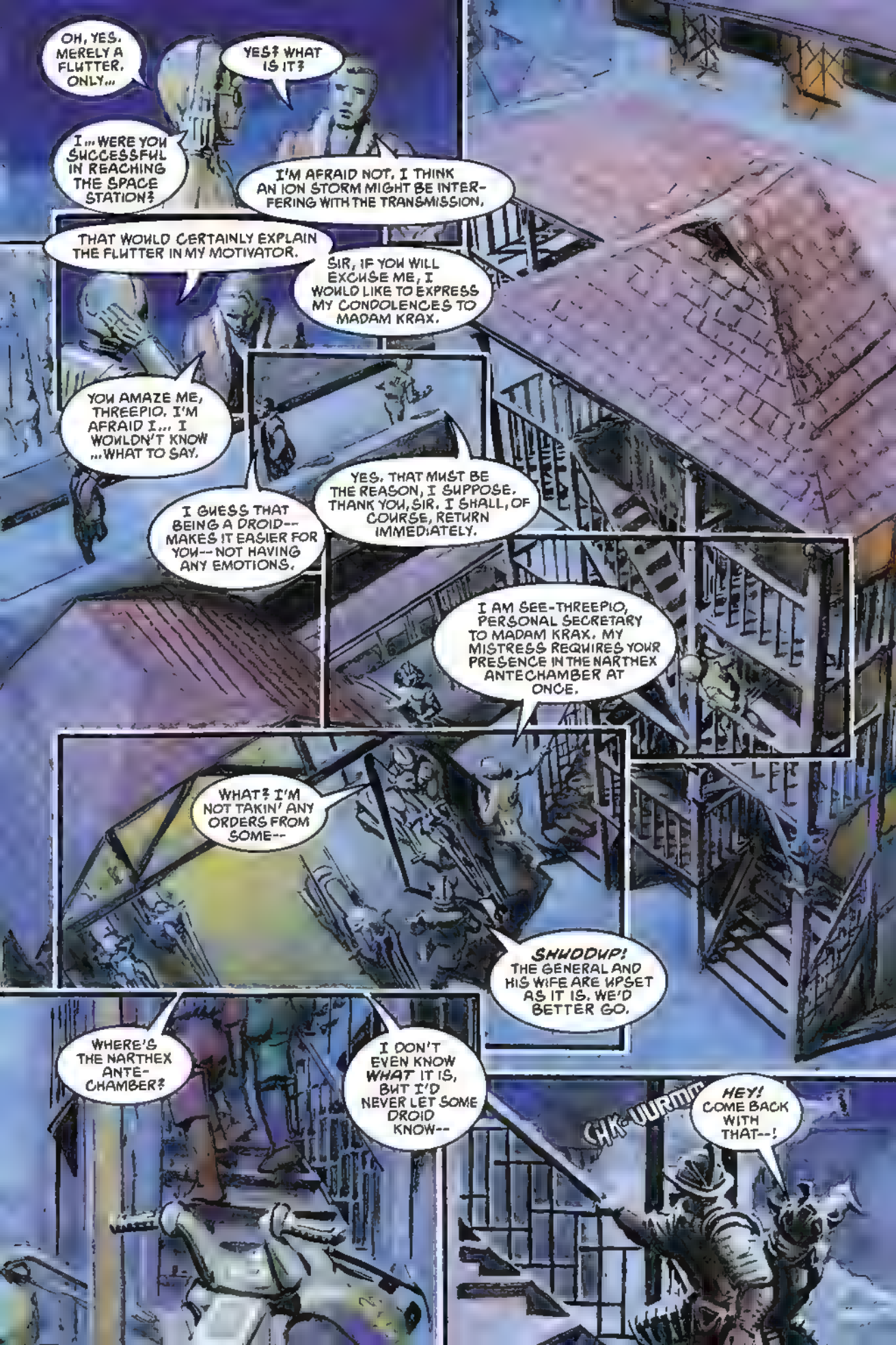

S.R. MIGHT I ASK IF YOU ARE COMPLETELY SURE THE HOBOR GIRL WAS RESPONSIBLE? I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT--
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY DETECTIVE, THREEPIO. IN CASE YOU DIDN'T HEAR, GENERAL KRAX PLANS A DAWN ATTACK ON THE HOBORS. WHICH IS WHY YOU AND I ARE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
WHO COULD EVER HAVE COMPUTED THIS... THIS HORRIBLE TURN OF EVENTS. YOUR FATHER WILL BE SO DISAPPOINTED.
NOW THE TION HEGEMONY WILL ABANDON THE TAHLBOOR SYSTEM FOREVER!
IF THE TION HEGEMONY WANTS ACCESS TO THE TAHLBOOR SYSTEM, THEN NEGOTIATIONS AREN'T OVER YET, IT'S JUST THAT WE MIGHT ONLY BE NEGOTIATING WITH ONE MAJOR POWER.
YOU MEAN... THE TROOBS MIGHT EXTERMINATE THE HOBORS?
UNLESS THE HOBORS EXTERMINATE THE TROOBS FIRST.
EXTERMINATED. HAS IT ALL BEEN FOR NAUGHT? SURELY THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU--WE COULD DO, MASTER JAKE.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN THINK OF. I'M GOING TO SEND A TRANSMISSION TO MY FATHER AND TELL HIM TO SEND AN EMERGENCY TRANSPORT FOR US! YOU WAIT HERE.
AS YOU SAY, SIR!
NO... NOT MY SON! NOT MY... UH-UH--
POOR MADAM KRAX... HOW I REGRET MY NEGATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT HER. SUCH A TERRIBLE LOSS. SHE MUST FEEL SO...
...ALONE.
OOOHH. MY BROADBAND ANTENNA! WHO--? AHHHH!
EEEE

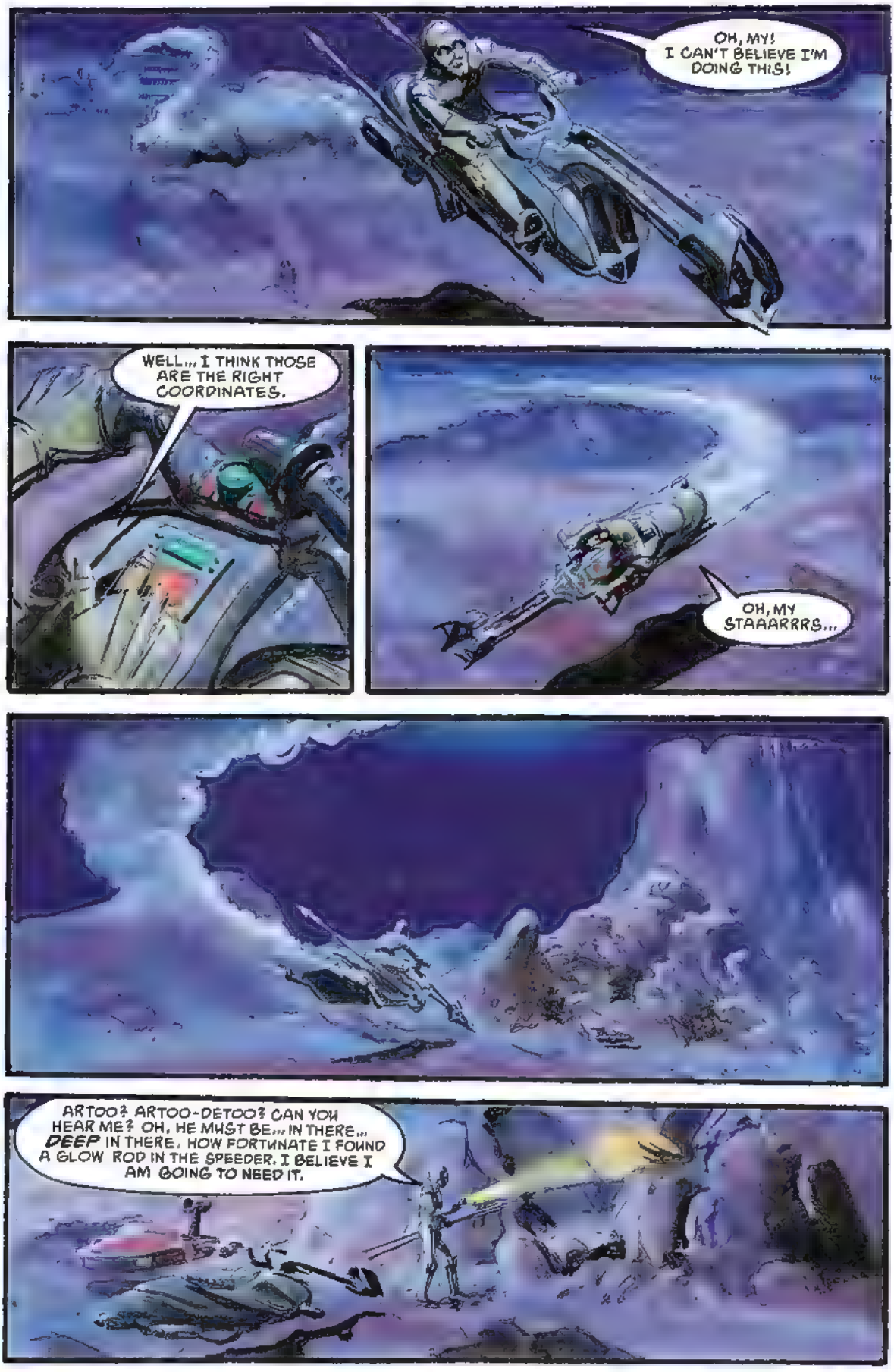
EEP VRROOP TWEEP?!
VPP WHIRRR DUP-DUPP! WOOP VREEE!
ARTOO-DETOO! OF COURSE I CAN HEAR YOU. PERHAPS YOU COULD TRANSMIT A LOUDER SIGNAL, YOU HORRID LITTLE FUGITIVE!
WHAT IS WORSE, I CAN HEAR YOU TWICE. SOME SORT OF ECHO, I SUPPOSE. WHERE ARE YOU?
BOTH IN A CAVE? YOU EXPECT ME TO HELP? "LONG STICKS--FOR LEVERAGE"? FOR WHAT?! ARTOO-DETOO, YOUR CIRCUITS ARE FRIED! HELP MISTRESS LARKA? DON'T YOU KNOW THE TWO OF YOU HAVE STARTED A WAR?!

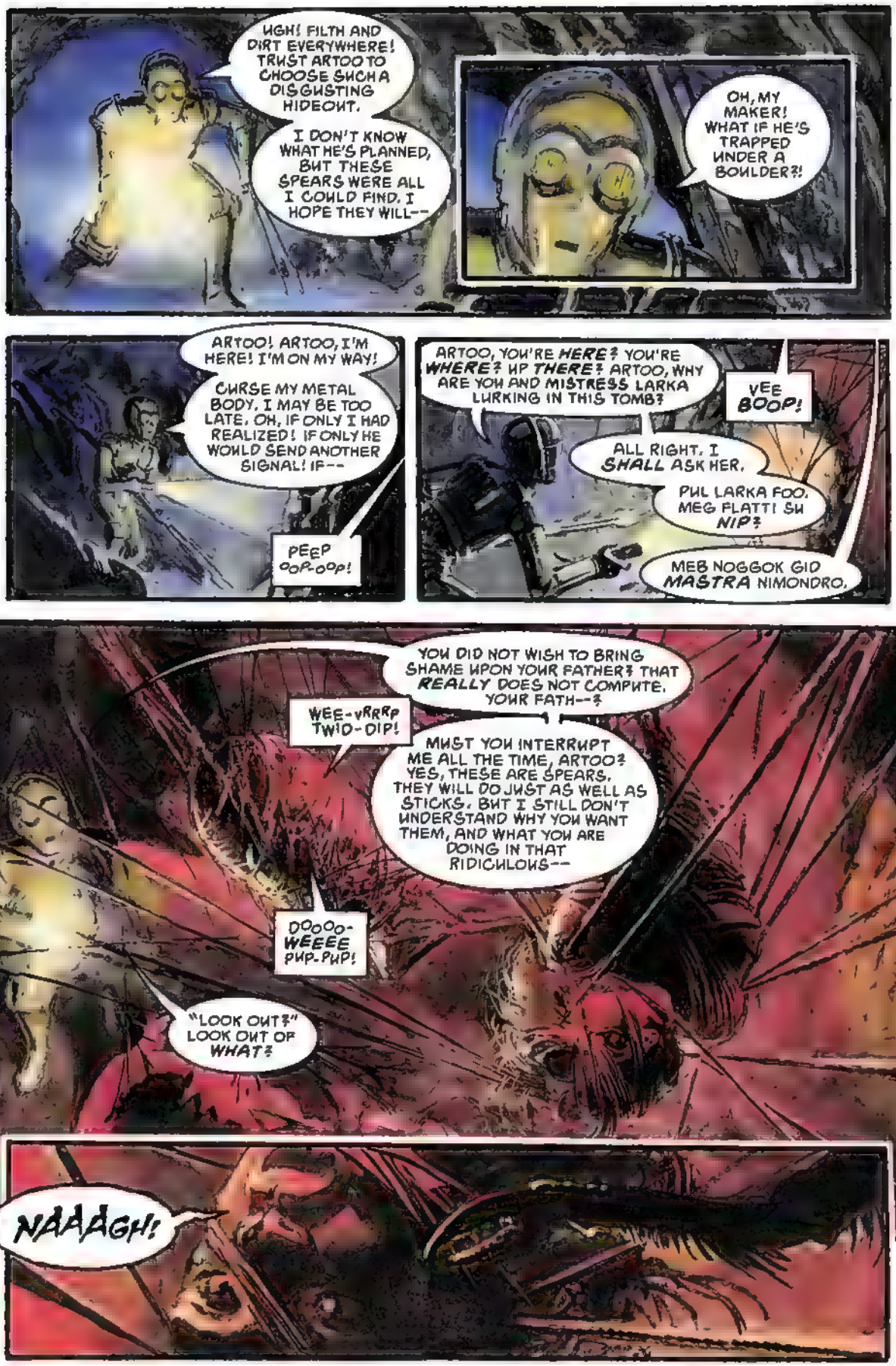
WRRRRP PIDDIP! TWIP OOP-OOP?
WHAT?! NO, ARTOO, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU EVER LIED TO ME BEFORE--APART FROM YOUR ENDLESS PROMISES TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, BUT INNOCENT, YOU SAY?
SQUEEE DUT-NOOP! PWEEEE TRP-T RP!
HER DEATH WILL BE MY FAULT? BUT ARTOO, WHAT CAN I DO? PERHAPS WE SHOULD CONSULT GENERAL KRAX OR MASTER HARTHA--
VOOOOR TWEEEEP--!

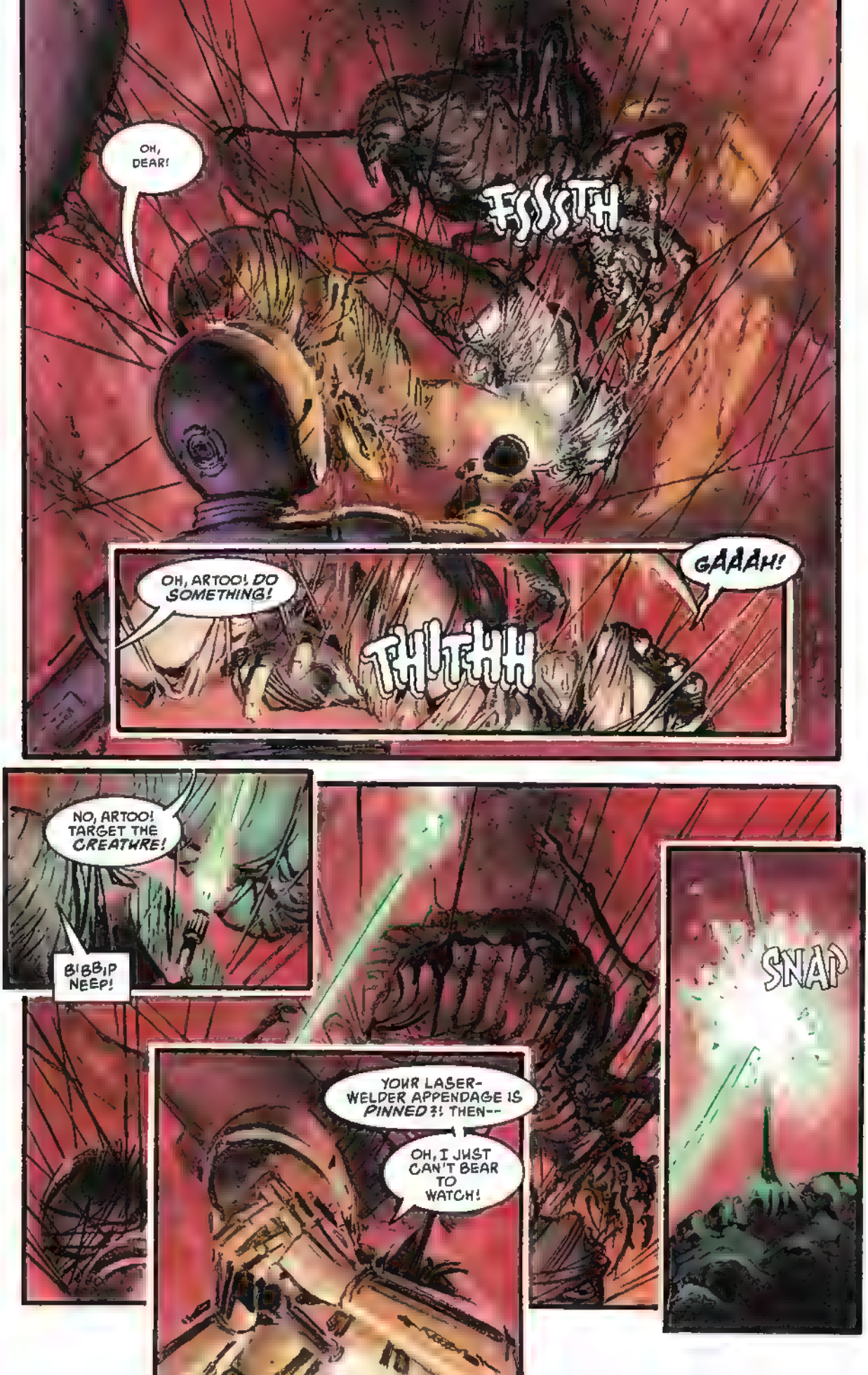

SKREEE VOOO PWIP-EEP ZZZT WRRRRRPP VOOOP-NOOOP!
YOU'RE NOT REALLY SUGGESTING... HELLO? ARTOO? HELLO?
EVERYTHING OKAY, THREEPIO?
YES, YES, I RECEIVED THE COORDINATES, BUT WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT SEEING SOME--
PHP-DUP BI--
BZZT

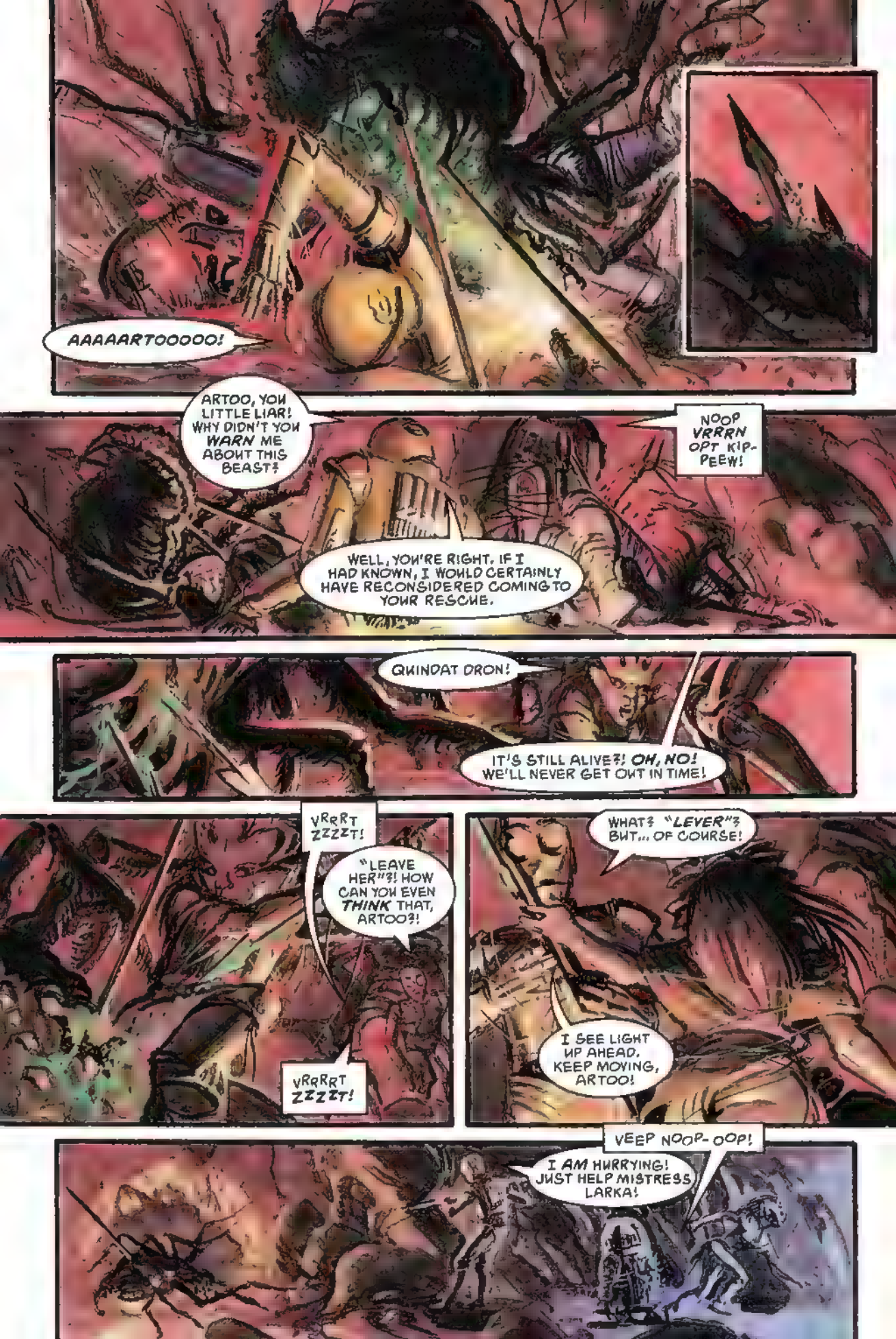
THREEPIO?

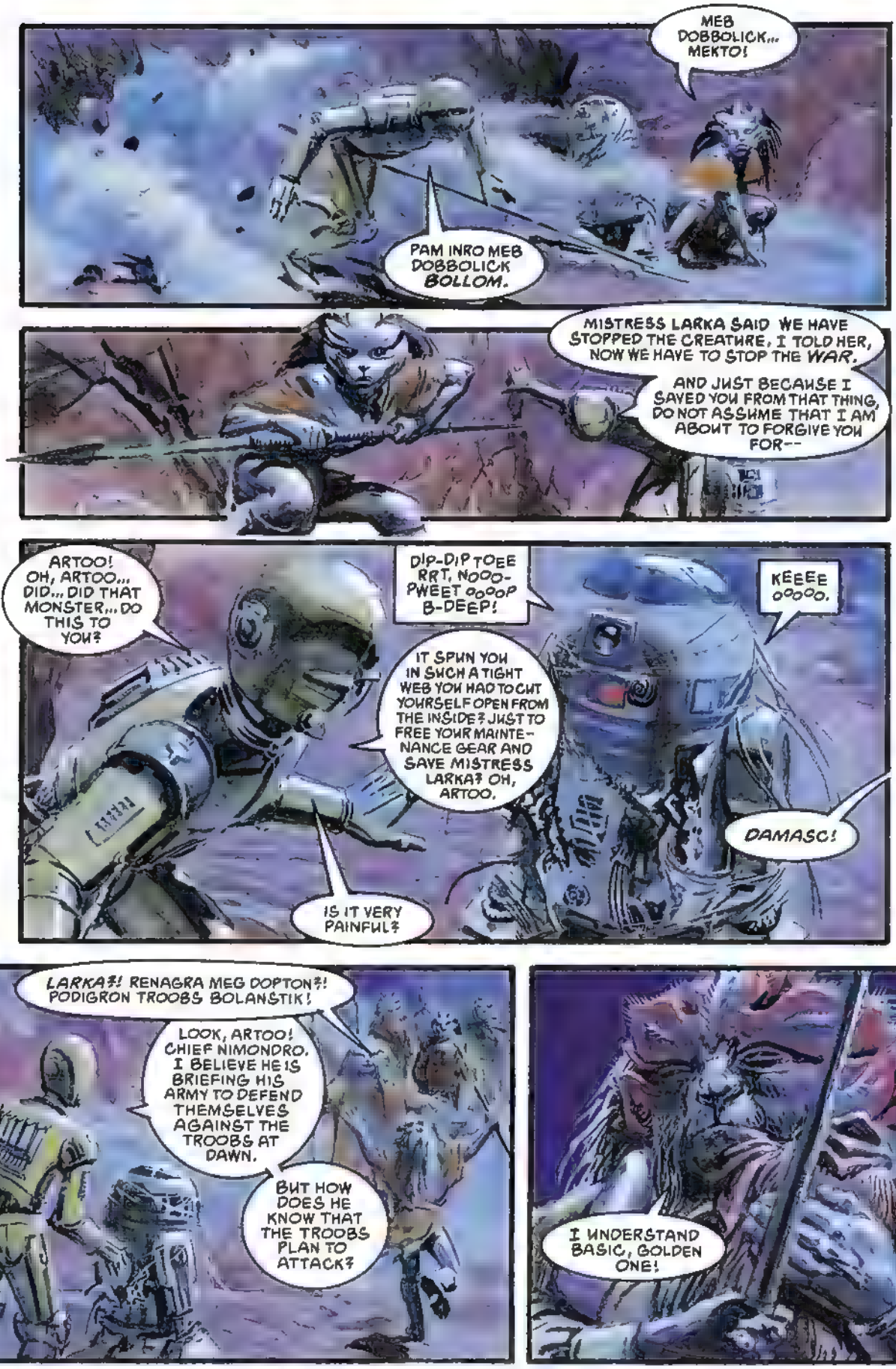

OH, YES. MERELY A FLUTTER. ONLY...
YES? WHAT IS IT?
I... WERE YOU SUCCESSFUL IN REACHING THE SPACE STATION?
I'M AFRAID NOT. I THINK AN ION STORM MIGHT BE INTERFERING WITH THE TRANSMISSION.
THAT WOULD CERTAINLY EXPLAIN THE FLUTTER IN MY MOTIVATOR.
SIR, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY CONDOLENCES TO MADAM KRAX.
YOU AMAZE ME, THREEPIO. I'M AFRAID I... I WOULDN'T KNOW ...WHAT TO SAY.
I GUESS THAT BEING A DROID-- MAKES IT EASIER FOR YOU-- NOT HAVING ANY EMOTIONS.
YES. THAT MUST BE THE REASON, I SUPPOSE. THANK YOU, SIR. I SHALL, OF COURSE, RETURN IMMEDIATELY.
I AM SEE-THREEPIO, PERSONAL SECRETARY TO MADAM KRAX. MY MISTRESS REQUIRES YOUR PRESENCE IN THE NARTHEX ANTECHAMBER AT ONCE.
WHAT? I'M NOT TAKIN' ANY ORDERS FROM SOME--
SHUDDUP! THE GENERAL AND HIS WIFE ARE UPSET AS IT IS. WE'D BETTER GO.
WHERE'S THE NARTHEX ANTE-CHAMBER?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT I'D NEVER LET SOME DROID KNOW--
CHK-VURM
HEY! COME BACK WITH THAT--!

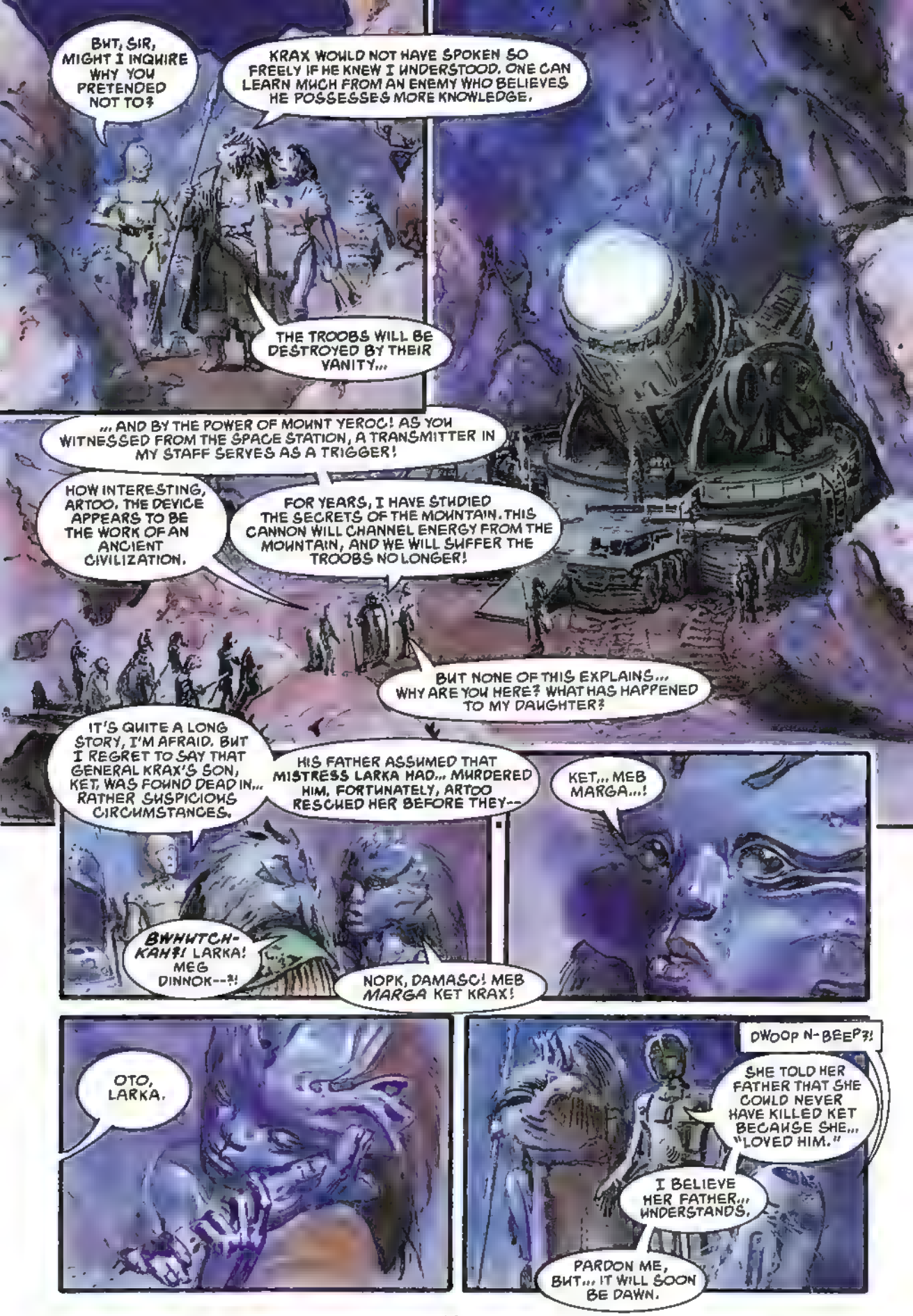

OH, MY! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS!
WELL... I THINK THOSE ARE THE RIGHT COORDINATES.
OH, MY STAAARRRS...
ARTOO? ARTOO-DETOO? CAN YOU HEAR ME? OH, HE MUST BE... IN THERE... DEEP IN THERE. HOW FORTUNATE I FOUND A GLOW ROD IN THE SPEEDER. I BELIEVE I AM GOING TO NEED IT.


UGH! FILTH AND DIRT EVERYWHERE! TRUST ARTOO TO CHOOSE SUCH A DISGUSTING HIDEOUT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNED, BUT THESE SPEARS WERE ALL I COULD FIND. I HOPE THEY WILL--
OH, MY MAKER! WHAT IF HE'S TRAPPED UNDER A BOULDER?!
ARTOO! ARTOO, I'M HERE! I'M ON MY WAY!
CURSE MY METAL BODY. I MAY BE TOO LATE. OH, IF ONLY I HAD REALIZED! IF ONLY HE WOULD SEND ANOTHER SIGNAL! IF--
PEEP OOP-OOP!
ARTOO, YOU'RE HERE? YOU'RE WHERE? UP THERE? ARTOO, WHY ARE YOU AND MISTRESS LARKA LURKING IN THIS TOMB?
VEE BOOP!
ALL RIGHT. I SHALL ASK HER.
PUL LARKA FOO. MEG PLATT! SU NIP?
MEB NOGGOK GID MASTRA NIMONDRO.
YOU DID NOT WISH TO BRING SHAME UPON YOUR FATHER? THAT REALLY DOES NOT COMPUTE. YOUR FATH--?
WEE-VRRRP TWID-DIP!
MUST YOU INTERRUPT ME ALL THE TIME, ARTOO? YES, THESE ARE SPEARS. THEY WILL DO JUST AS WELL AS STICKS. BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT THEM, AND WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN THAT RIDICULOUS--
DOOOO-WEEEE PUP-PUP!
"LOOK OUT?" LOOK OUT OF WHAT?
NAAAGH!


OH, DEAR!
FSSSTH
OH, ARTOO! DO SOMETHING!
GAAAH!
THTHH
NO, ARTOO! TARGET THE CREATURE!
BIBBIP NEEP!
SNAP
YOUR LASER-WELDER APPENDAGE IS PINNED?! THEN--
OH, I JUST CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH!

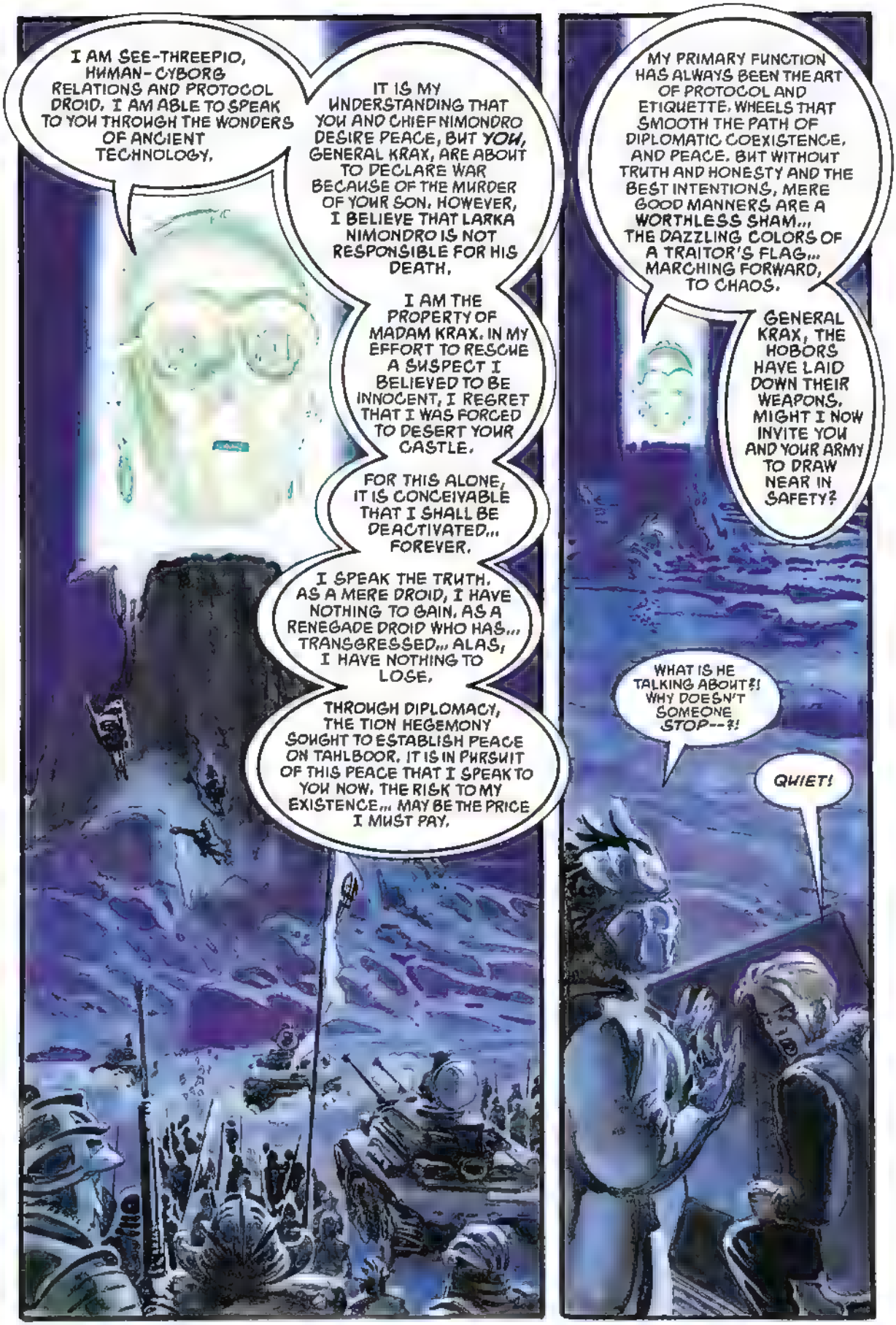

AAAAARTOOOOO!
ARTOO, YOU LITTLE LIAR! WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN ME ABOUT THIS BEAST?
NOOP VRRRN OPT KIP-PEEW!
WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT. IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE RECONSIDERED COMING TO YOUR RESCUE.
QUINDAT DRON!
IT'S STILL ALIVE?! OH, NO! WE'LL NEVER GET OUT IN TIME!
VRRRT ZZZZT!
"LEAVE HER"?! HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK THAT, ARTOO?!
VRRRT ZZZZT!
WHAT? "LEVER"? BUT... OF COURSE!
I SEE LIGHT UP AHEAD. KEEP MOVING, ARTOO!
VEEP NOOP-OOP!
I AM HURRYING! JUST HELP MISTRESS LARKA!

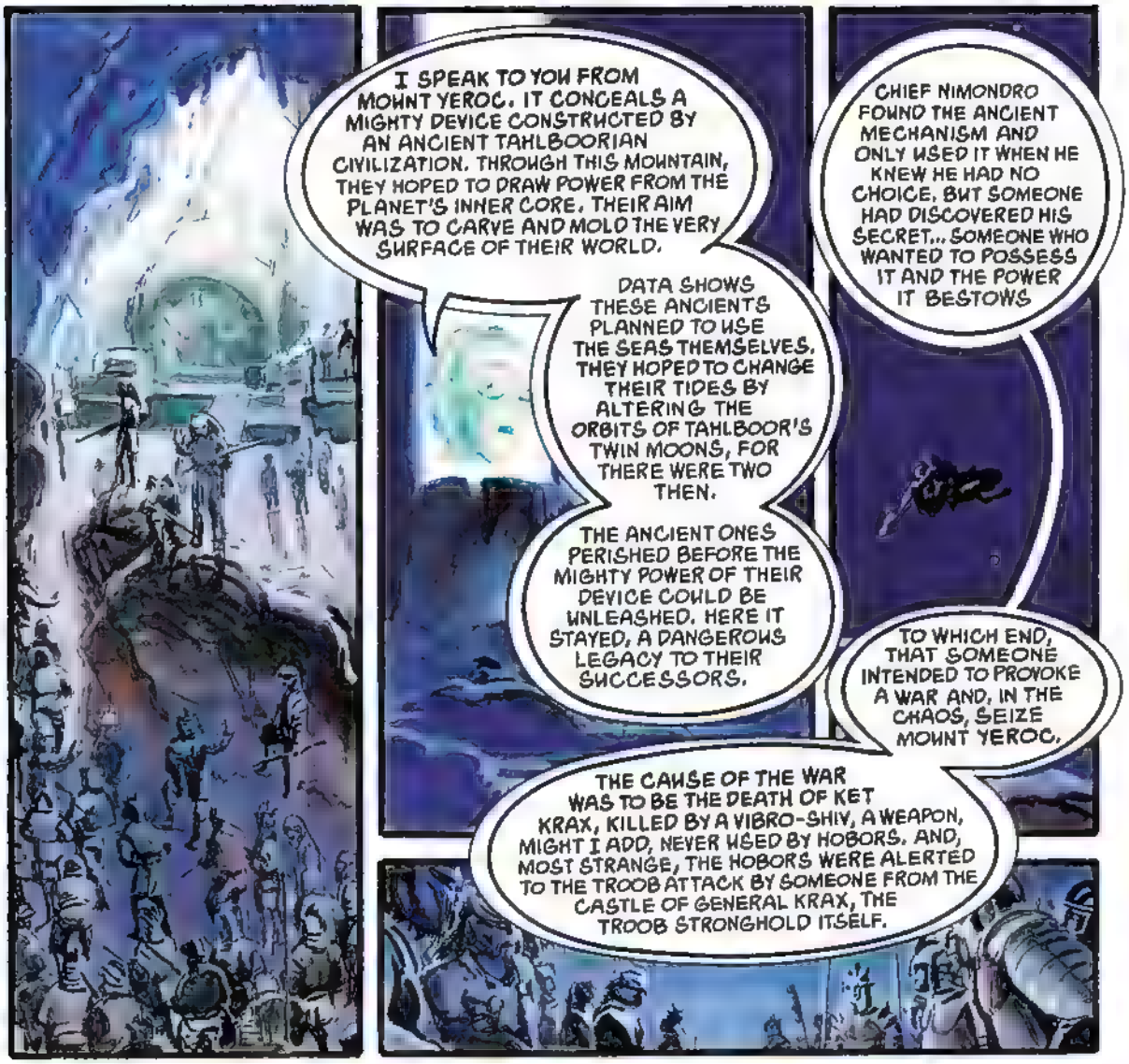

MEB DOBBOLICK... MEKTO!
PAM INRO MEB DOBBOLICK BOLLOM.
MISTRESS LARKA SAID WE HAVE STOPPED THE CREATURE, I TOLD HER, NOW WE HAVE TO STOP THE WAR.
AND JUST BECAUSE I SAVED YOU FROM THAT THING, DO NOT ASSUME THAT I AM ABOUT TO FORGIVE YOU FOR--
ARTOO! OH, ARTOO... DID... DID THAT MONSTER... DO THIS TO YOU?
DIP-DIP TOEE RRT, NOOO-PWEET OOOOP B-DEEP!
KEEEE OOOOO.
IT SPUN YOU IN SUCH A TIGHT WEB YOU HAD TO CUT YOURSELF OPEN FROM THE INSIDE? JUST TO FREE YOUR MAINTE-NANCE GEAR AND SAVE MISTRESS LARKA? OH, ARTOO.
DAMASC!
IS IT VERY PAINFUL?
LARKA?! RENAGRA MEG DOPTON?! PODIGRON TROOBS BOLANSTIK!
LOOK, ARTOO! CHIEF NIMONDRO. I BELIEVE HE IS BRIEFING HIS ARMY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST THE TROOBS AT DAWN.
BUT HOW DOES HE KNOW THAT THE TROOBS PLAN TO ATTACK?
I UNDERSTAND BASIC, GOLDEN ONE!

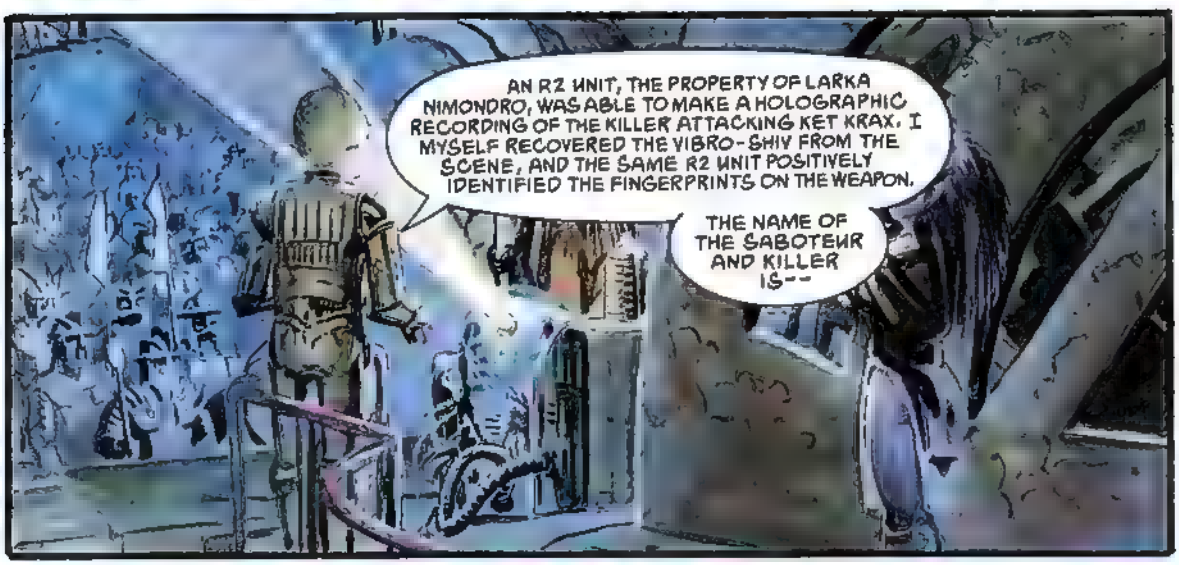

BUT, SIR, MIGHT I INQUIRE WHY YOU PRETENDED NOT TO?
KRAX WOULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN SO FREELY IF HE KNEW I UNDERSTOOD. ONE CAN LEARN MUCH FROM AN ENEMY WHO BELIEVES HE POSSESSES MORE KNOWLEDGE.
THE TROOBS WILL BE DESTROYED BY THEIR VANITY...
... AND BY THE POWER OF MOUNT YEROC! AS YOU WITNESSED FROM THE SPACE STATION, A TRANSMITTER IN MY STAFF SERVES AS A TRIGGER!
HOW INTERESTING, ARTOO. THE DEVICE APPEARS TO BE THE WORK OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.
FOR YEARS, I HAVE STUDIED THE SECRETS OF THE MOUNTAIN. THIS CANNON WILL CHANNEL ENERGY FROM THE MOUNTAIN, AND WE WILL SUFFER THE TROOBS NO LONGER!
BUT NONE OF THIS EXPLAINS... WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY DAUGHTER?
IT'S QUITE A LONG STORY, I'M AFRAID. BUT I REGRET TO SAY THAT GENERAL KRAX'S SON, KET, WAS FOUND DEAD IN... RATHER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.
HIS FATHER ASSUMED THAT MISTRESS LARKA HAD... MURDERED HIM. FORTUNATELY, ARTOO RESCUED HER BEFORE THEY--
KET... MEB MARGA...!
BWHWTCH-KAH?! LARKA! MEG DINNOK--?!
NOPK, DAMASC! MEB MARGA KET KRAX!
OTO, LARKA.
DWOOP N-BEEP?!
SHE TOLD HER FATHER THAT SHE COULD NEVER HAVE KILLED KET BECAUSE SHE... "LOVED HIM."
I BELIEVE HER FATHER... UNDERSTANDS.
PARDON ME, BUT... IT WILL SOON BE DAWN.

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, THREEPIO. I KNOW OF THEIR PLANNED ATTACK! WHY DO YOU THINK WE PREPARE THE SKY CANNON? AN UNIDENTIFIED ALLY SENT A CODED SIGNAL FROM KRAX'S CASTLE!
A WARNING! FROM...?! BUT THAT MEANS--
VRRRP NYOOP!
"I TOLD YOU SO" IS NOT VERY HELPFUL, ARTOO. BUT I FEAR YOU MAY BE... RIGHT.
ARTOO-DETOO HAS ALREADY INFORMED ME THAT HE KNOWS THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE MURDERER.
FURTHERMORE, HE BELIEVES THAT THE KILLING WAS PART OF AN ORCHESTRATED PLAN FOR THE TROOBS AND HOBORS TO COMMIT... MUTUAL GENOCIDE.
BUT WHO WOULD DARE--?!
TO SAY MORE WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO A BREACH OF MY PROGRAMMING, SIR. IN ANY CASE, NO ONE WOULD TAKE THE WORD OF A DROID.
BREEP-WOOP YEEP!
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, OUR BATTLE IS NOT WITH THE TROOBS.
I HAVE SAID BEFORE... I WANT PEACE. PERHAPS IF I COULD MEET WITH GENERAL KRAX...?
I FEAR IT MAY BE TOO LATE. DAWN IS AT HAND.
ARTOO, YOU MUST BE DELUSIONAL! HOW COULD THE SKY CANNON POSSIBLY PREVENT A WAR? THAT SPIDER MUST HAVE TRIPPED YOUR LOGIC CIR--
NO! PLEASE! IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN DO...!
NHB-BUPP BE-OOO WERP!
ARTOO INFORMS ME THAT HE HAS TAPPED INTO A DATA CIRCUIT. IT RELATES TO THE DEVICE'S ORIGINAL FUNCTION.
HE HAS HAD SOME EXPERIENCE WITH ARCHAIC TECHNOLOGY, SIR. HE SAYS THAT THE CIRCUITRY IS RATHER DUSTY, BUT NEVERTHELESS, IN REASONABLE CONDITION.

MOLLEGA TROOBS!
THE TROOBS ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK? DO HURRY, ARTOO!
VRRRRRN WOOP DUP-DUPP! B-YOO EEEEEE RRRM!
I HAVE TO DO WHAT?! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ARTOO. I COULDN'T POSSIBLY...
WE'RE READY, SIR, BUT A SCOUT REPORTS THAT THERE'S ACTIVITY AT THE BASE OF MOUNT YEROC.
WE'RE GOING IN. AWAIT MY ORDER.
YES, GENERAL.
YOU'RE STILL HERE, JAKE HARTHAN?
YES. I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO CONTACT MY FATHER. A SHUTTLE IS ON THE WAY.
I'M SO SORRY, MADAM KRAX. FOR YOUR LOSS, I MEAN. I SUPPOSE THREEPIO CONVEYED MY SYMPATHIES?
NO, HE DID NOT. PLEASE TAKE THE DROID BACK WITH YOU, JAKE HARTHAN. HE'S OBVIOUSLY DEFECTIVE.
I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND. HE SAID HE'D--
GENERAL KRAX, I CALL TO YOU AND THE TROOB ARMY YOU COMMAND.


I AM SEE-THREEPIO, HUMAN-CYBORG RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DROID. I AM ABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH THE WONDERS OF ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY.
IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU AND CHIEF NIMONDRO DESIRE PEACE, BUT YOU, GENERAL KRAX, ARE ABOUT TO DECLARE WAR BECAUSE OF THE MURDER OF YOUR SON. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT LARKA NIMONDRO IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH.
I AM THE PROPERTY OF MADAM KRAX. IN MY EFFORT TO RESCUE A SUSPECT I BELIEVED TO BE INNOCENT, I REGRET THAT I WAS FORCED TO DESERT YOUR CASTLE.
FOR THIS ALONE, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT I SHALL BE DEACTIVATED... FOREVER.
I SPEAK THE TRUTH. AS A MERE DROID, I HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN. AS A RENEGADE DROID WHO HAS... TRANSGRESSED... ALAS, I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.
THROUGH DIPLOMACY, THE TION HEGEMONY SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH PEACE ON TAHLBOOR. IT IS IN PURSUIT OF THIS PEACE THAT I SPEAK TO YOU NOW. THE RISK TO MY EXISTENCE... MAY BE THE PRICE I MUST PAY.
MY PRIMARY FUNCTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ART OF PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE. WHEELS THAT SMOOTH THE PATH OF DIPLOMATIC COEXISTENCE, AND PEACE. BUT WITHOUT TRUTH AND HONESTY AND THE BEST INTENTIONS, MERE GOOD MANNERS ARE A WORTHLESS SHAM... THE DAZZLING COLORS OF A TRAITOR'S FLAG... MARCHING FORWARD, TO CHAOS.
GENERAL KRAX, THE HOBORS HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR WEAPONS. MIGHT I NOW INVITE YOU AND YOUR ARMY TO DRAW NEAR IN SAFETY?
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?! WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE STOP--?!
QUIET!


I SPEAK TO YOU FROM MOUNT YEROC. IT CONCEALS A MIGHTY DEVICE CONSTRUCTED BY AN ANCIENT TAHLBOORIAN CIVILIZATION. THROUGH THIS MOUNTAIN, THEY HOPED TO DRAW POWER FROM THE PLANET'S INNER CORE. THEIR AIM WAS TO CARVE AND MOLD THE VERY SURFACE OF THEIR WORLD.
DATA SHOWS THESE ANCIENTS PLANNED TO USE THE SEAS THEMSELVES. THEY HOPED TO CHANGE THEIR TIDES BY ALTERING THE ORBITS OF TAHLBOOR'S TWIN MOONS, FOR THERE WERE TWO THEN.
THE ANCIENT ONES PERISHED BEFORE THE MIGHTY POWER OF THEIR DEVICE COULD BE UNLEASHED. HERE IT STAYED, A DANGEROUS LEGACY TO THEIR SUCCESSORS.
CHIEF NIMONDRO FOUND THE ANCIENT MECHANISM AND ONLY USED IT WHEN HE KNEW HE HAD NO CHOICE. BUT SOMEONE HAD DISCOVERED HIS SECRET... SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO POSSESS IT AND THE POWER IT BESTOWS
TO WHICH END, THAT SOMEONE INTENDED TO PROVOKE A WAR AND, IN THE CHAOS, SEIZE MOUNT YEROC.
THE CAUSE OF THE WAR WAS TO BE THE DEATH OF KET KRAX, KILLED BY A VIBRO-SHIV, A WEAPON, MIGHT I ADD, NEVER USED BY HOBORS. AND, MOST STRANGE, THE HOBORS WERE ALERTED TO THE TROOB ATTACK BY SOMEONE FROM THE CASTLE OF GENERAL KRAX, THE TROOB STRONGHOLD ITSELF.

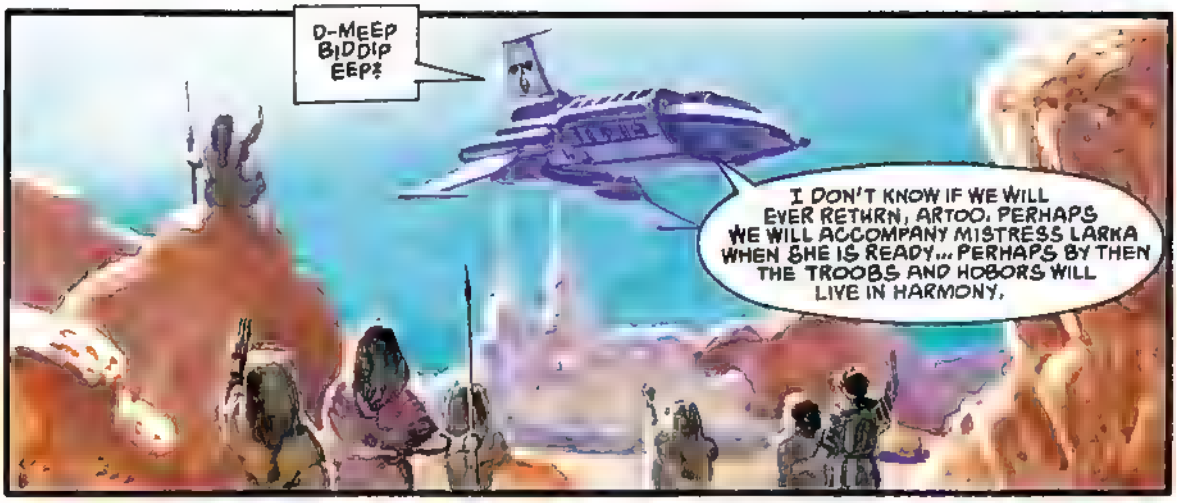

AN R2 UNIT, THE PROPERTY OF LARKA NIMONDRO, WAS ABLE TO MAKE A HOLOGRAPHIC RECORDING OF THE KILLER ATTACKING KET KRAX. I MYSELF RECOVERED THE VIBRO-SHIV FROM THE SCENE, AND THE SAME R2 UNIT POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED THE FINGERPRINTS ON THE WEAPON.
THE NAME OF THE SABOTEUR AND KILLER IS--

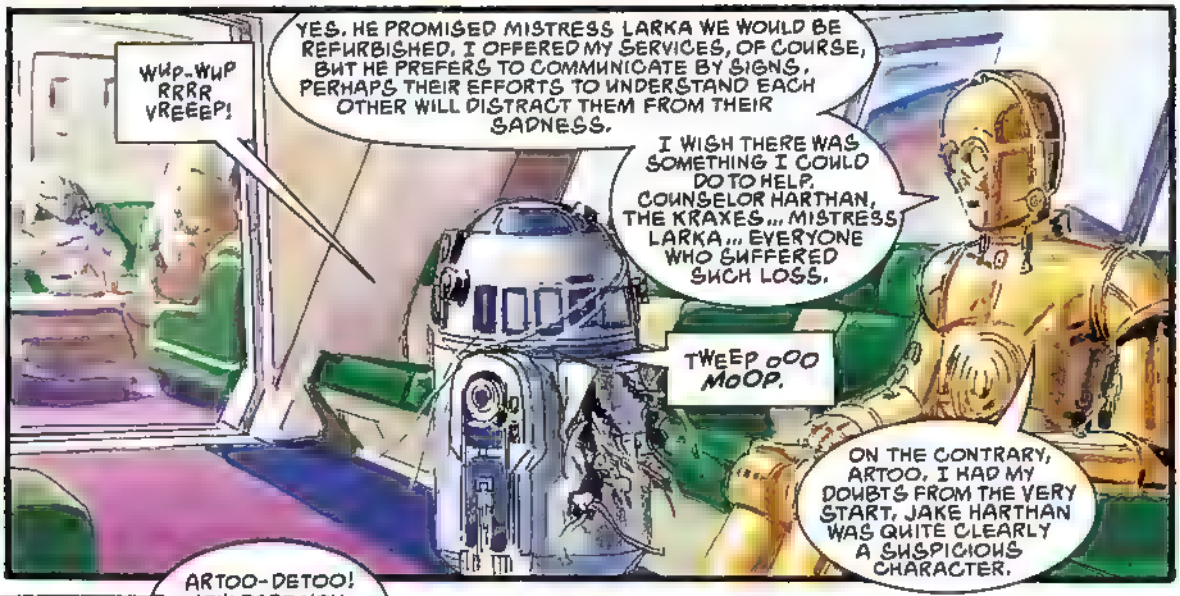
KWEEEEE!

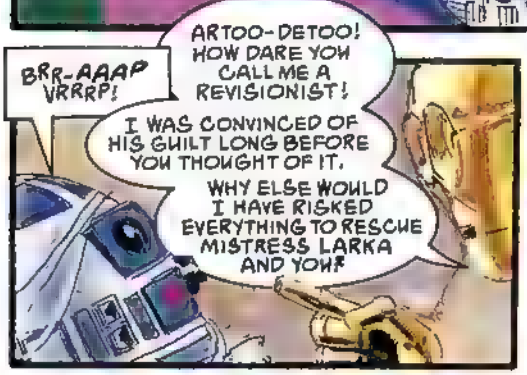
---JAKE HARTHAN!
OH, I THINK THEY ALL FIGURED IT OUT, THREEPIO! DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU TALK TOO MUCH?!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS! EVERYONE! OR MY NEXT SHOT IS GOING CLEAN THROUGH MADAM KRAX'S NO-CLASS SKULL!
I FOUND OUT ABOUT MOUNT YEROC WEEKS AGO, YOU CAN LEARN A LOT WITH REMOTE SENSOR PROBES!
WHAT CAN I SAY? I WASN'T CUT OUT FOR DIPLOMACY. I ALWAYS WANTED TO RULE MY OWN PLANET.
BUT SINCE THESE DROIDS HAVE RUINED EVERYTHING, I HAVE ONE THING LEFT TO DO--SAVE MY REPUTATION!
MY FATHER MUST NEVER FIND OUT! I WANT THAT VIBRO-SHIV AND ARTOO'S HOLOTAPE!
I MUST INFORM YOU THAT YOU WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. ARTOO-DETOO ONLY SURMISED YOUR GUILT. THERE WERE NO FINGERPRINTS, AND THE ONLY TAPE... IS THE ONE THAT ARTOO IS RECORDING... NOW!
YOU... YOW--!
QUITE CORRECT. I "BLUFFED"!
UNNNFF!

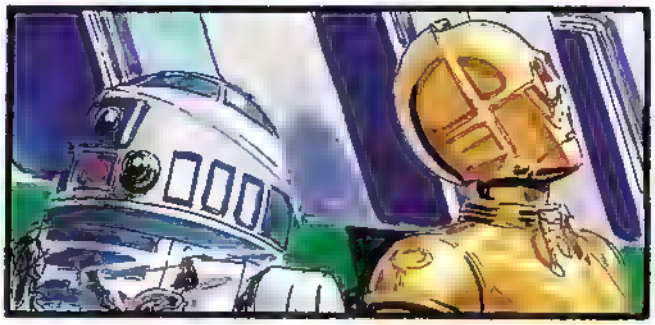
NO!
KRAX!
YOU LOUSY, STINKING--
AAAGTH--!
MADAM KRAX! YOU'VE LANDED ON MY--
YOU DO TALK TOO MUCH!
FZZZT

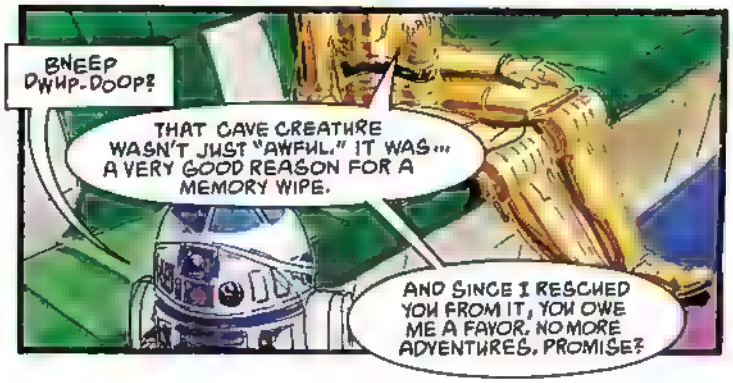
I... I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD... I'M SORRY. FOR YOUR... FOR EVERYTHING. I--
YOU SAY THE R2 UNIT CAPTURED... THE EVENT ON TAPE? IT'S... THIS IS ALL VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME. I WISH... I DON'T KNOW--
WE ARE SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, COUNSELOR HARTHAN...
...AND WE ARE SORRY THAT IT TOOK SUCH TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES TO UNITE THE PEOPLE OF TAHLBOOR.
WE CANNOT CHANGE THE PAST, BUT WE CAN WORK TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE. WE KNOW IT WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT IT WILL BE MORE NOBLE THAN WHAT WE HAD.
CHIEF NIMONDRO AND I AGREE, COUNSELOR, THAT WHAT WE NEED NOW IS TIME... TO TALK, AND TO HEAL.
IF I MIGHT CRAVE YOUR INDULGENCE, COUNSELOR...
...MY COUNTERPART AND I HAD THOUGHT TO OFFER OUR SERVICES HERE ON TAHLBOOR TO... HELP. BUT MISTRESS LARKA HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO LEAVE THIS PLANET FOR A SHORT TIME.
SHE HOPES THAT ARTOO AND I MIGHT ACCOMPANY HER.
THIS IS MOST UNEXPECTED, COUNSELOR...
... BUT IT MIGHT BE BEST IF LARKA HAD SOME TIME AWAY... AND THAT THE TROOBS AND HOBORS ATTEMPT PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT THE TION HEGEMONY.
YES, YES. OF COURSE. THEY'LL COME WITH ME.
IF I'D KNOWN HOBORS SPOKE BASIC, I--
LOROVOY, LARKA.
I... I TOLD HER TO COME HOME SOON.
WE HEARD YOU, NIMONDRO. WE HEARD.
KIDS.

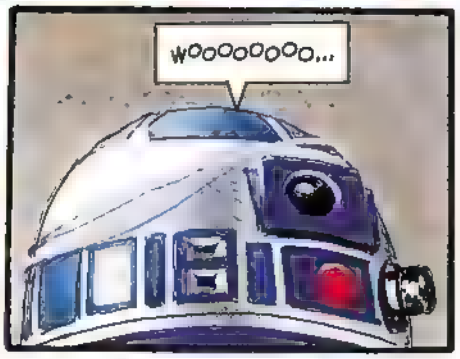

D-MEEP BIDDIP EEP?
I DON'T KNOW IF WE WILL EVER RETURN, ARTOO. PERHAPS WE WILL ACCOMPANY MISTRESS LARKA WHEN SHE IS READY... PERHAPS BY THEN THE TROOBS AND HOBORS WILL LIVE IN HARMONY.

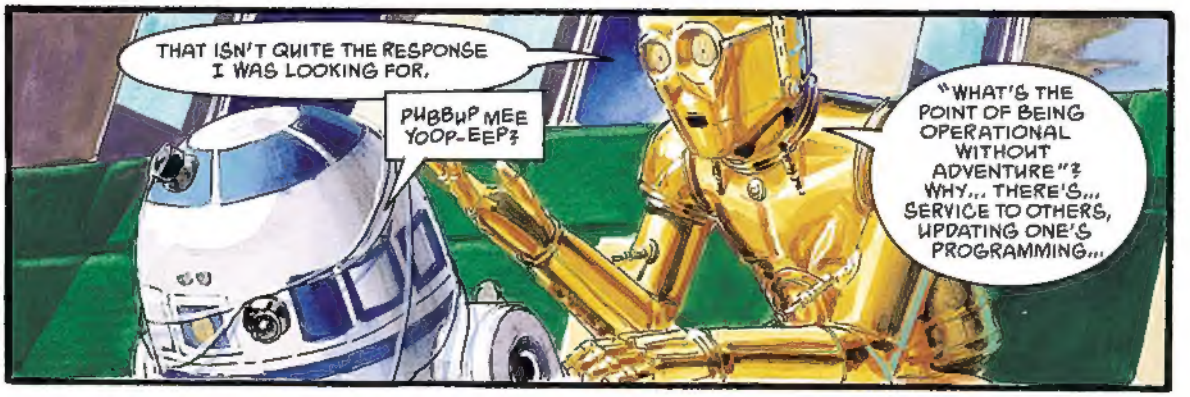

WHP-WHP RRRR VREEEP!
YES. HE PROMISED MISTRESS LARKA WE WOULD BE REFURBISHED. I OFFERED MY SERVICES, OF COURSE, BUT HE PREFERS TO COMMUNICATE BY SIGNS. PERHAPS THEIR EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER WILL DISTRACT THEM FROM THEIR SADNESS.
I WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP. COUNSELOR HARTHAN, THE KRAXES... MISTRESS LARKA... EVERYONE WHO SUFFERED SUCH LOSS.
TWEEP OOO MOOP.
ON THE CONTRARY, ARTOO, I HAD MY DOUBTS FROM THE VERY START. JAKE HARTHAN WAS QUITE CLEARLY A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER.


BRR-AAAP VRRRP!
ARTOO-DETOO! HOW DARE YOU CALL ME A REVISIONIST!
I WAS CONVINCED OF HIS GUILT LONG BEFORE YOU THOUGHT OF IT.
WHY ELSE WOULD I HAVE RISKED EVERYTHING TO RESCUE MISTRESS LARKA AND YOU?




BNEEP DWHP-DOOP?
THAT CAVE CREATURE WASN'T JUST "AWFUL." IT WAS... A VERY GOOD REASON FOR A MEMORY WIPE.
AND SINCE I RESCUED YOU FROM IT, YOU OWE ME A FAVOR. NO MORE ADVENTURES. PROMISE?


WOOOOOOOO...


THAT ISN'T QUITE THE RESPONSE I WAS LOOKING FOR.
PHBBHP MEE YOOP-EEP?
"WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING OPERATIONAL WITHOUT ADVENTURE"? WHY... THERE'S... SERVICE TO OTHERS, UPDATING ONE'S PROGRAMMING...

...MAINTENANCE DIAGNOSTICS, INFORMATION PROCESSING...
ZRRP OOP TOO-WHEEP.
WHY, THANK YOU, ARTOO. THINGS WOULD CERTAINLY BE DULL WITHOUT YOU, TOO... ON THE OTHER HAND...

BHH-BEEP.
WELL, *THAT* GOES WITHOUT SAYING!

THE END

A Word About the Omnibus Collections

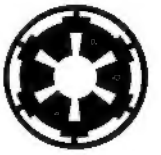
Dark Horse Comics' *Star Wars* Omnibus Collections were created as a way to showcase actual novel-length stories or series, and to provide homes for "orphaned" series, single-issue stories, and short stories, which would otherwise never be collected, or which might fall out of print.

STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVEL TIMELINE (IN YEARS)

Tales of the Jedi—5,000–3,986 BSW4
Knights of the Old Republic—3,964 BSW4
Jedi vs. Sith—1,000 BSW4
Jedi Council: Acts of War—33 BSW4
Prelude to Rebellion—33 BSW4
Darth Maul—33 BSW4
Episode I: The Phantom Menace—32 BSW4
Outlander—32 BSW4
Emissaries to Malastare—32 BSW4
Jango Fett: Open Seasons—32 BSW4
Twilight—31 BSW4
Bounty Hunters—31 BSW4
The Hunt for Aurra Sing—30 BSW4
Darkness—30 BSW4
The Stark Hyperspace War—30 BSW4
Rite of Passage—28 BSW4
Jango Fett—27 BSW4
Zam Wesell—27 BSW4
Honor and Duty—24 BSW4
Episode II: Attack of the Clones—22 BSW4
Clone Wars—22–19 BSW4
Clone Wars Adventures—22–19 BSW4
General Grievous—20 BSW4
Episode III: Revenge of the Sith—19 BSW4
Dark Times—19 BSW4
Droids—3 BSW4
Boba Fett: Enemy of the Empire—2 BSW4
Underworld—1 BSW4
Episode IV: A New Hope—SW4
Classic Star Wars—0–3 ASW4
A Long Time Ago . . . —0–4 ASW4
Empire—0 ASW4
Rebellion—0 ASW4
Vader's Quest—0 ASW4
Boba Fett: Man with a Mission—0 ASW4
Jabba the Hutt: The Art of the Deal—1 ASW4
Splinter of the Mind's Eye—1 ASW4
Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back—3 ASW4
Shadows of the Empire—3–5 ASW4
Episode VI: Return of the Jedi—4 ASW4
X-Wing Rogue Squadron—4–5 ASW4
Mara Jade: By the Emperor's Hand—4 ASW4
Heir to the Empire—9 ASW4
Dark Force Rising—9 ASW4
The Last Command—9 ASW4
Dark Empire—10 ASW4
Boba Fett: Death, Lies, and Treachery—11 ASW4
Crimson Empire—11 ASW4
Jedi Academy: Leviathan—13 ASW4
Union—20 ASW4
Chewbacca—25 ASW4
Legacy—130 ASW4

Old Republic Era
25,000 – 1000 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope

Rise of the Empire Era
1000 – 0 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope



Rebellion Era
0 – 5 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Republic Era
5 – 25 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Jedi Order Era
25+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Legacy Era
130+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Infinities
Does not apply to timeline

Sergio Aragonés Stomps Star Wars
Star Wars Tales
Star Wars Infinities
Tag and Bink
Star Wars Visionaries

BSW4 = before *Episode IV: A New Hope*. ASW4 = after *Episode IV: A New Hope*.

STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

DROIDS

Before the clueless C-3PO and his clever companion R2-D2 fell to the sands of Tatooine for their first fateful meeting with Luke Skywalker, those two troublesome droids had some amazing adventures all their own!

Sold to a junk trader and shipped off to the treacherous Kalarba System, Artoo and Threepio begin a journey that takes them from the jaws of a droid-eating beast to the frontlines of a revolution! Entangled with pirates, bounty hunters, and the notorious space criminal Olag Greck, they do their best to stick together in a dangerous galaxy where anything can happen!

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